

Seoul, Korea

January 1, 1898

M. Alice Fish

Dear Father and Mother:

The first letter of the New Year shall be dated to you. On December 18th I received the first word from home and now again on New Year's Day I am made very happy by more home letters. How thankful I am for the good news from my dear ones; that you are so well and your letters are so full of courage and peace. God is blessing us very richly. May our Father keep you safely and so near to Himself that the changing circumstances which come shall touch lightly. I do wish you might have as clear a picture of my new home and surroundings as is brought up to my mind when you speak of yours.

I am very, very happy here, and very comfortably settled. At first there was no stove in my bedroom so I had to live in Dr. Georgiana Whiting's sitting room, and only come in here when ready to tuck myself under blankets and comforters. It was so cold the water froze every night in the pitcher, and my little clock would not run even to keep warm! Three of the coldest nights I made up a cot in the warm sitting room. I do not know how low the temperature went, but think it was not below zero. There were clear cold days when it never went above 30 degrees in my bedroom. Needless to say, I did not stay in there long. I enjoy the cold and have not once wished for summer, but this weather is very hard on these poor people. Both rice and fuel are very high and during the cold snap just before Christmas we were told over 200 in the City were frozen. When my stove came I found it ab out the only thing in the shipment which was disappointing. It was sent without a grate.

On Christmas Day we had a delightful party of missionaries down at the Girl's School. Miss Doty and Dr. Field were hostesses. Miss Ellen Strong, whose sister I saw in San Francisco, was there, also Miss Shields, the nurse who came out with Dr. Field and now is living with Miss Strong, Mr. and Mrs. Miller of our mission, also Miss Wambold, Dr. Whiting and myself. I expect to write so much about all these dear people that you will soon know them very well. Miss Doty - here eight years, was at home last year and returned. She has entire charge of the Girl's school, and is doing a splendid work. She is a beautiful character. Miss Doty was a good faithful friend, acting as my interpreter and helping me to get settled. You would love her dearly. My little organ is the greatest comfort. That, and not medicine, has been the first thing to let me into the hearts of some of these dear people. The women who come all enjoy it so much. I have played several times in the little native church over the hill, and now I have undertaken to teach the native woman who is the helper in the school, to play the hymns, so she can lead the little girls. She comes for half an hour every day and is delighted with the thought of learning. Dr. Georgiana Whiting and I dined on Christmas day at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Vinton - and I received so many Christmas remembrances I felt as if I

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were in a circle of friends I had known a long time. At night last of all I opened the dear little present from my dear little mother. It was last and best and fullest of love.

January 5th

New Year's Day was one of universal reception. The gentlemen preserve the old fashioned custom of calling on all the ladies. I spent the day alone - writing, reading, and resting. In the evening came the precious home mail with your last letter of December 6th (!). That made me feel nearer home than before. How thankful I am for my precious home. * * * My language study is very slow. I have just begun with my third teacher, but he is so much better than the other two, that I feel I shall really make some progress now if I work hard. It seems a hopeless task, * * * Oh, I am so glad to be here, so thankful to begin the New Year in this land. It seems to me when I can speak to the people, that no work could be more delightful or satisfying. I am learning for my first Korean hymn "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus," and shall next take "More Love to Thee."

Will you have the record of an ordinary day thus far? Rise at 7, and spend the time until 9 o'clock (after straightening my room) in Bible study and prayer - - then attend prayers which Dr. Whiting conducts in Korean. From 10 to 12, study with my teacher. Go down to the school for dinner, and then I try to study from 2 to 4, but this is much interrupted. This week its place is taken by the afternoon meetings of the week of prayer which are being held in the foreign settlement 2½ miles away. These are very precious meetings to us, - the missionaries of all denominations come together, nearly 40 attending at times. What joy in the thought that there is a belt of united prayer round all this great globe. How greatly we must depend upon prayer, and what a blessing that He who holds the affairs of nations is a prayer answering God. May He answer with blessings for poor down-trodden Korea. Our petition is that whatever the steps of the nations, the Gospel message may have free course.

Your loving daughter,

Alice

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Paris, France

January 4, 1898

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

In the midst of so much sightseeing during our journey through Ireland, Scotland and England I completely neglected to send you any word of my progress towards Korea. In another week I shall be on board the North German *Lloyd S.S. Sachsen* which leaves Naples January 12th for Shanghai and by the middle of February I shall hope to again have the pleasure of writing you from Korea concerning our work there. This journey has indeed been a delightful experience and one which I feel sure has been of great benefit, preparing me for more effective work.

We have seen quite a great deal of church life - both city and country and have been helped thereby. In Edinburgh I had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Bishop [Isabella Bird Bishop] lecture upon Missions and afterwards of renewing my acquaintance with her at an afternoon reception where she was being entertained. Her lectures certainly do great good as she is gifted in the ability to graphically describe the great need for Mission work.

In London we were greatly pleased with the Boarding House of the Foreign Missions Club which is at present managed by Mr. & Mrs. Whitnee (?). He was for many years a missionary of the L.M.S. [London Missionary Society] in Samoa and makes his home atmosphere a very helpful one. I am sorry for those who may follow me that he is not to continue in charge but I trust his successor may be equally successful. Mr. Smith of the Agency Department very satisfactorily attended to all my business affairs and I consider it a very great convenience to the missionaries of our Board that we have such an agency in London.

I have had a good rest from work and am longing to reach Korea again. I shall overrun my furlough nearly two weeks and shall have to ask the indulgence of the Board to that extent.

With kindest regards to you and to all in the office.

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

(Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #178, Vol.6, letter #65 - the letter, itself, was incorrectly dated "1897", probably because it was written so early in the year 1898. It is, therefore, incorrectly listed among the 1897 letters in the index. It should be dated and listed "1898")

Pyeng Yang, Korea

January 20, 1898

Annie Laurie Adams Baird

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Mr. Baird was appointed a month ago to write the usual monthly letter to the Board, but as time is passing and he continues to be very busy, he has asked me to write in his place.

If Mrs. Wells' illness had not kept Dr. Wells in this fall, our station would have been "manned" by women all through the itinerating season. For the last six weeks, however, the travelers have gathered in again, and the work here in Pyeng Yang, which had necessarily languished a little during the fall, has been taken up again with full vigor, as far as our forces will permit. Our schedule of weekly services is as follows: - on Sundays, four Sabbath schools in the morning, two regular church services in the afternoon, and two services in the evening, all these of course, in two or three different parts of the town and vicinity. On Wednesdays, two afternoon classes of women, and in the evening the regular prayer meeting. On Saturday a teacher's class in preparation for the next day's Sabbath schools.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Baird have been very busy during the last eighteen days with the winter training class. They planned for an attendance of twenty-five, and invited that many, when to their surprise, men came pouring in to the number of more than 100, bringing their own rice and bent on getting all the instruction there was to be had. Some of these men came a distance of between one and two hundred miles, trudging all that way on foot with their bundles on their backs. I think God must love to look down on such pilgrims. The class was divided into two sections, the primary section being taken through a course in Matthew and Mark, and the more advanced through Galatians and Hebrews.

Those of our number who have not yet taken the examinations are making language study the business of their lives, with, I hope, good success on the part of all. I do not think there can be a place where a knowledge of the language is better rewarded than here. An interest in the Gospel is springing up everywhere, and word reaches us almost daily of this or that hamlet more or less remote where idols have been cast out, and an attempt is being made to observe the Sabbath. So we rejoice, although often with fear and trembling, lest for lack of the instruction which they so much need, these poor, ignorant people may fall away, and their last state be worse than their first.

On Mr. Baird's return from one of his trips last fall, he brought back with him a big idol, made of wood covered over with gilt. He had had his home for a hundred and eighty years in a little temple up in the hills, but now his worshipers have all forsaken him and turned his temple into a Christian church, and having no

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further use for him, they presented him to the missionary when he came along on his rounds. He is quite a good-looking old fellow as idols go, and very awe-inspiring to our little son, who gives the storeroom a wide berth, now that Buddha holds forth from the top shelf.

Mrs. Lee and I are compassing the work among the women as best we can, having each a class on Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. These four classes are usually well attended, not by curiosity seekers, but by earnest intelligent women, many of them able to read, and all anxious to be taught the way of life more perfectly. Sometimes the meetings are almost like revival services at home. A week ago last Sabbath after the class was over, the Christian women came bringing up one after another four women, who, they said, wanted to become Christians, and the Christian women immediately gathered around them, encouraging, exhorting, etc. One of these women, a feeble old creature, had walked ten miles to learn something of the doctrine. Do you wonder, if, on coming out from such a meeting, the little hills almost seemed to my happy vision, to be skipping like lambs?

These two classes apiece, with the oversight of a day school of little girls on Mrs. Lee's part, and a little scattering literary work on mine, is the most that we are able to accomplish beside the care of our little folks. We are contented to be stationary, since we must, but we are looking forward to the time when Miss Best will be able to itinerate among the village women.

Hoping that I have written the things that you will be interested in hearing,

I am yours very sincerely,

Annie Laurie Adams Baird

Tagoo, Korea
(address Fusan)

January 20, 1898

Woodbridge O. Johnson

Rev. Frank Field Ellinwood, D.D.
156 5th Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Ellinwood:

I trust you will excuse my delay in writing more than a postal to let you know of our arrival and settling in Tagoo. I wrote that the day we landed at Fusan. Our voyage out was rough considerable of the way and not very pleasant. We found ten other missionaries on the *Coptic* and made some warm friends. Miss Lewis of the Canton Mission was the only one of our Board and no one else going to Korea. In Japan we were detained ten days awaiting a steamer for Fusan. We visited Tokyo, went by rail from there to Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe. Both Mrs. Johnson and myself were glad we were not to stop in Japan. The country is beautiful and artistic but the people seem to have an unusual number of very disagreeable characteristics. The missionaries whom we met seemed to envy us, notwithstanding the isolation of Korea and Tagoo. Dr. Irvin and Mr. & Mrs. Ross came aboard the steamer to meet us at Fusan December 22nd. As Mrs. Adams was expecting to be confined and anxious to have me at Tagoo, we started the next morning under Dr. Irvin's guidance for this place. We had a most interesting ride on pony (Mrs. Johnson in a Korean chair), of three days through valleys and over hills and one high mountain. The scenery beautiful, lacking in vegetation at this season and hills almost bare of trees but bold and rugged. We had expected the very worst possible things of the Korean inns but Mrs. Johnson had Dr. Irvin's cot and the cold season is bad for the insectivora so we did pretty well considering the cramped quarters and the smoke. Rooms average six or seven feet square and a bonfire [is] at the door of each of half a dozen or more rooms around the court yard. The latter is filled with horses, cows, straw, coolies and their loads – and confusion reigns for late after you arrive and begins early. Mrs. Johnson found the square Korean chair, simply a box, rather tiresome after her long trip and Tagoo seemed like home after Japanese hotels and the inns.

We received a most cordial welcome from Mr. & Mrs. Adams. [We] are boarding with them until our house is ready which may mean a month or six, apparently. Adams has a good native house which has been remodeled. It is comfortable. I am not sure how its earth floors (some rooms) and earth walls will stand the rainy season. Adams is a very fine fellow. [He] has had the expected addition to his family - a boy, who arrived last Friday. He and his mother are doing well. Mr. Adams has been here now about three months. There are no other foreigners except a French priest and Japanese soldiers. The former, Mr. Adams has called upon but not seen. The people are very pleasant but not much disturbed by our presence. [They are] rather apathetic. Mrs. Johnson and myself have a teacher and are studying. Just now she is a trained nurse [amah?] and house-keeper.

1/20/98 - p.2 W.O.J.

We like Tagoo and the Koreans and believe there is great promise among them. I have had a dozen calls for medical aid but Mr. Adams explains that until I get the language I will not treat patients. We are both well. I trust your health is good this winter.

Please remember me to Dr. Gillespie and Mr. Hand [the Board treasurer]. I remain

Very sincerely,

Woodbridge O. Johnson

Seoul, Korea

February 5, 1898

dictated by M. Alice Fish

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

A letter was received this evening from Mrs. C.A. Mills of Teng Chou-foo, China, asking me to transfer my work to the East Shantung province and saying that letters had gone to the Board asking for this transfer.

I can truly say that from my first application to the Board, I have had no will of my own as to the country or station where I should be placed. Though I have not heard from the Board directly, I have been told since coming here that my appointment was for the Pyeng Yang station after the first year of language study and have earnestly hoped the Korean Mission would ratify this appointment. Since Korea was first mentioned as my field, the Pyeng Yang station has been on my heart in the hope that I might be permitted to go there. The desire is as strong as ever for these reasons: because of the character of the station, the character of the work done there, the prominence of evangelistic work; and the great desire of the people for Bible truth.

I know the medical work is not needed as a wedge for the gospel but this does not say that a woman physician who is first an evangelist cannot find a very important secondary place for medical work.

It has been my desire to do medical itinerating and I learn that that is just the work which is needed at Pyeng Yang.

The need is surely great in China, but is not now the day for Northern Korea? Where else are the people as hungry for the Truth?

If the Board, notwithstanding this, considers it best I should be transferred to China, I am willing to go.

I leave the matter with the Lord and ask that He may very clearly guide in the decisions.

Very sincerely,

M. Alice Fish

P.S. Dr. Fish is ill with fever and I have written the above at her dictation.

Sincerely yours,

Georgiana E. Whiting

Pyeng Yang, Korea

April 6, 1898

Samuel A. Moffett

Mr. Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Since my arrival a month or so ago I have wanted to write you, but I have been plunged into the midst of such a great work, the consideration of so many questions and so much responsibility that the days have been absolutely filled with duties demanding immediate attention.

1. I wish I could give you some idea of the great joy that has come to me over the reception given me by these Korean Christians and over their evident manifestation of a deep and real work of the Spirit of God in this whole region.

My heart has been touched as never before by the love and interest shown by the Christians. Some fifty or sixty of them went out the road to meet me as I came from Seoul on my bicycle. I rode into the first group of them 20 miles out the road where they had gone with some from the Choung Hoa Church. From there all the way in, I found them here and there along the road waiting for me and their great joy and the evident sincerity of their welcome was, I can assure you, most touchingly gratifying to me. What a contrast was this ovation to the reception accorded me eight years ago!

2. I have been made most grateful however by finding that almost all of those with whom I had labored and whom I had seen come under the influence of the gospel have stood firm and shown that their faith was in demonstration of the Spirit and in power, that they were not our converts but the Lord's and that the gospel itself had taken hold of them. Many have been added to their number during my absence and among them are some who had formerly been bitter opponents with whom I had repeatedly talked of the gospel and who now came to me with glad faces saying they wanted to take back all the abuse and insult offered me in days past. The progress made in the work is a perfect delight and the first night of my arrival as I stood before the audience of some 250 men and women gathered for a prayer meeting my thoughts went back to the time when but a little over five years ago I here baptized seven men, forming them into a little church.

The first Sabbath after my return I visited the four Sabbath Schools and the two church services, one for men and one for women and found between six and seven hundred people assembled for worship. When I spoke to the congregation of near 200 women my heart was full of gratitude and all I could say was "Kitpou!" "Kitpou!" "I am delighted!" "I am delighted!" Truly the Lord has blessed this work most marvelously. All this month I have had a constant run of visitors from near and far, expressing their joy over my return and the letters have been pouring in from all over the country, so that more and more I am learning of the power of the gospel and of its marvelous and wide spread influences.

It has not taken me long to get into the work again and as the direction of the church here with its pastoral oversight is the first work assigned to me I have given my first attention to it. The problems which confront us now are quite different from those we met in the earlier stages of the work and I trust we shall have the same guidance and direction now as then in what seems to me one of the most important steps before us, viz., the gradual and judicious transference of the government and management of the native church to those Koreans whom we have been and are training to meet the responsibilities of leadership.

3. We have already taken in hand the question of providing a larger church building which is so urgently needed. Whether the Koreans will be able to build the church without assistance is yet to be seen, but acting upon the supposition that they are to do so we began on last Sabbath receiving subscriptions for that purpose. They are responding eagerly and liberally so that in one day the subscriptions received amounted to three hundred dollars.

Before leaving New York I spoke to you of my brother's offer to provide the funds for the church, but we think it best to hold this offer in abeyance until we have given the Koreans the opportunity to provide for all or as much of it as possible. I was much interested in Mr. Speer's remarks on this subject in his report, page 43, and very much wish I could have met him to discuss this and many other questions.

With over 600 catechumens and 150 baptized members in this city church the task of providing sufficient instruction and spiritual oversight is not a light one. The presence of Mr. & Mrs. Baird, both of whom have the gift of teaching, is a great help in enabling us to provide for some of this but our great need is for well trained spiritually minded men to constitute a native board of Elders who can efficiently bear a part of this responsibility.

4. The country work has increased by leaps and bounds and wherever it has had close attention from the missionary or from well trained and well instructed native Christians it has been kept well in hand, but the growth has been so prodigious that the force of men available has been totally inadequate to supervise it carefully. I cannot but feel that we must provide for more training classes that the leaders may come into more intimate contact with us, get our spirit and ideas and be able to direct their own people into right channels.

As to whether we should have one strong central station or open one or two new stations I shall have clearer views and convictions after I have visited our country work and more clearly grasped the present situation and after we have more compactly organized our work. I am quite sure however that our present force will not be sufficient to meet the needs of the work one or two years from

now unless we should meet with some unexpected hindrance to the advance of the work. I shall write you again on this subject.

5. I have been glad to find Mr. Lee's health as good as it is after the strain of the work through which he has been going, and I rejoice also in the way Mr. Whittemore has taken up the northern work. He is now there expecting to spend 3 months on the field. He has a faithful and able assistant in Mr. Yang and together they are seeing that work develop most promisingly although more slowly than some other parts.

6. Next to the oversight of the Church here the station has thought that I could render greatest assistance by meeting Mr. Lee's request that we together visit the Whang Hai region in order to strengthen and direct that wonderful work, which because of its almost magical growth presents some rather different problems. We expect to leave next week to be gone nearly two months visiting more than fifty substations. I shall enjoy writing you after that trip.

7. There are two questions which have recently arisen concerning which I wish to write.

The Shantung Mission China has prepared a request that Dr. Fish be transferred to that Mission. In regard to this the Pyeng Yang station to which we all understood Dr. Fish was appointed is decidedly and unanimously of the opinion that she is needed here far more than in any other field. She wants to come here; she already has some knowledge of the language; it is evident that she will work well with us; and there is an opportunity for her here which certainly cannot be surpassed anywhere, even tho it may possibly be equalled. Why there was any uncertainty about her destination I know not, but I quite distinctly remember your telling me that she was to go direct to Pyeng Yang. I was therefore surprised to find her in Seoul with no notification from the Board that she was appointed with a view to work in Pyeng Yang. We sincerely hope that the Board will meet the need for a lady doctor in the Shantung Mission by an appointment from America and that the original appointment of Dr. Fish to Pyeng Yang will not be altered.

8. The other question is one which arises out of our plans for meeting the needs of our large country work. The demand for Scriptures, tracts & books of all kinds has become so great that the Press in Seoul is not only not able to meet that demand but we are practically shut out from use of the press for minor items such as pastoral letters & circulars, church blanks, Sunday School lesson sheets, etc., etc. This has raised in our minds the question of purchasing a small press so that we can more efficiently meet the demands of our country work for such letters, circulars, sheets, etc. We are using a mimeograph but with a small press the same amount of work would provide us with a thousand copies instead of a hundred as

now. For the larger demands we have we are obliged to provide thousands of copies and the advantages we should gain in looking after, organizing and unifying our work would be so great that we are eager to secure a small outfit at once. We shall not ask the Board for an appropriation but can provide it from private funds. I do not understand that such an amateur outfit as we contemplate has anything to do with the section of the Board's Manual which deals with "Printing Press" anymore than our present use of the mimeograph has.

9. I am rejoiced to be at work again and am very deeply impressed with the genuineness of the work here. I cannot but feel that it is due to the fact that from the very beginning nothing but the plain simple truths of the gospel have been urged upon these people and that these truths have been allowed to work out their own effects. Oh, how I wish it might be emphasized and re-emphasized the world over that the gospel alone is the power of God unto salvation and that the gospel alone can do and does for these people all that it has done and does for us. The introduction of other appeals based upon financial, educational or other advantages which draw the attention from the central truth of salvation from sin weakens the appeal and in so far as they enter into the lives of the people deprives them of spiritual power and strong faith.

I shall very much appreciate a letter from you giving me your advice and counsel concerning all the subjects treated in this letter. I trust that your health and strength may be preserved for many years and that I may have during my second term of service as pleasant and as helpful a correspondence with you as that during the first term.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Father: -

The package from home arrived night before last. I was like a child emptying its Christmas stocking as I sat on the floor and unpacked it. But I had to listen to all my own exclamations for there was no one up here to enjoy it with me. The beds have been ready for the seeds for some time, and now the seeds shall go to the beds! Perhaps the richest product for the first year will be experience - there is good soil for it I am sure. There is a small asparagus bed in the garden of several years' standing, and today Miss Doty and I gathered the first little bundle of tops. One has to live from a store room from which come things canned and things for stewing in order to better appreciate fresh vegetables or fruits. We have not a thing to complain of surely, for we live very well. Sometimes it does seem to me I have no right to sit down to two good meals a day when so many poor people around us have one scant meal and go hungry till the next can be found, and some people in the city have really died of starvation. Rice is getting a trifle higher every few days. The Koreans who are with us on the place, and our teachers, too, are saying they have hard work to get along these days and feed their families. If these who are getting regular wages find difficulty in buying enough food, I often wonder how others all about us manage to live at all.

The Koreans are utterly improvident, living literally from hand to mouth; and that sometimes means from our hands to their mouths.

I do not mean by that that there are many beggars nor that the missionaries give to them on every occasion. There are few street beggars because of the custom of the people of living upon each other. A destitute individual or family may be entirely supported for a time by relatives or friends who are in better circumstances and when times are brighter the one who has been helped is expected to do the same for others.

We try always to give some kind of work to those who come asking help; and often with the laborers and coolies part of the wages must be paid during the day so they can have a meal, and the remainder at the close of the day pays for the evening meal.

At that rate, you see, omitting a meal is about the only way of getting a trifle ahead. With wages at 14 cents a day this means working all day on one meal of rice and having 7 cents at night.

I wonder who originated the system of two meals a day in Korea! It most certainly was here before Dr. Dewey's day!

There is much sickness now, especially among the children. Tonics are needed in all the cases I have seen and usually I know only too well the tonic of nourishing food is the necessity. For several days I have been visiting the little three year old girl of the man who carries our wood and water down at the school. Five in the family live in a room not more than twelve feet square which has a little outer shed and a tiny yard. The little sick girl lay in dirty ragged clothes on the heated floor, but she was very patient and quiet and took so greedily some of the diluted condensed milk I had brought that it was pathetic.

I knew that what I wanted to do for her could not be done there and how I did want to lift her out of the dirt and bring her where she could be nursed well again. But Korean customs are specially sacred where sickness is concerned. The child must on no account be moved from that hot floor. Though its body is very dirty, it would surely die if any water were put on it. - and the parents must be quite progressive if they will allow you to give any foreign "yak" (medicine). The father of this little one is, I believe, a true Christian, and as the mother has been attending the little church here, I hoped she would be willing to trust us to do something for the child, and so she was willing I should go for a while and give a little "yak" but whether from the influence of neighbors or not, something caused a sudden change and I could do nothing more. I am afraid the little one is not alive tonight.

Hot needles can be run into a sick baby's body and a tender burn can be covered over with irritating charcoal by a native doctor; but a warm, soothing, cleansing bath would to their minds be courting death. They share with some of the Chinese the idea that we are differently

constructed and therefore it does not injure us to bathe.

If we believed these people had to be civilized and change their customs and ideas before they would be ready to receive and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as a Saviour, surely we would feel we were working far below the surface and only laying small pebbles in the foundation which not for many generations would bear the weight of the building of a Christian temple. But it works just the other way. And praise the Lord that it does. The love of the Lord Jesus Christ entering first is what displaces old customs and prejudices and makes a foundation for new teaching in every department.

We are just about over our siege of measles in the school, and all the little girls are out once more. They are such a happy little company. Out of school hours you may nearly always hear one and another of the gospel hymns ringing through the air.

April 18th

On these beautiful Spring mornings, "The world looks very beautiful" is the first song which comes into my mind. From our hill top the sunrise and sunset are often charming - and at night the stars are so brilliant they remind me of the nights in Colorado and the Sierras. During these days the hillsides and the fields about the city are rapidly growing green and the trees are beginning to leave and blossom. There are hundreds of sparrows that waken one early with their chirping about these quaint tile eaves, and great numbers of crows and magpies that are very noisy creatures. There is Spring in the air and it is surely a beautiful world. But here human nature as we see it, as it is thrust upon us on every side and we are crowded in by it, is such a blot on the beauties of God's creation, and we are so oppressed by the knowledge of what these poor people are, and of what they may and ought to be, that I think we often forget to see the beauties in nature and look only at the vileness of man.

When I was over at the hospital there was a woman brought in one morning by her husband and literally "dumped" on the floor of one of the rooms. Before I could reach there the man had gone, leaving us no trace. The woman was certainly a most pitiable creature. She had a few ragged clothes on and was rolled in an old quilt. Clothes and body were filthy and alive with vermin. She could find strength enough only to roll her head from side to side, but I think it was simply from starvation. We could learn nothing from her for her mind was almost gone. She said she had had nothing to eat for six months. It was not my place to take her in because it was evident we could do nothing to save her, and the people are so superstitious that for the good of the hospital it is best to avoid as many deaths as possible, but there was nothing else to be done for the present except care for her in the hope her husband would return. A tiny room was heated for her and small doses of stimulants and nourishment were begun. That afternoon I remained with her for a while to see if anything else could be done. The poor woman's face was greatly deformed, the nose had been entirely eaten away by disease leaving merely a hole surrounded by a great scar. The upper lip was drawn up, nearly all the teeth gone and gums shrunken. As I looked at her I could not help saying, "Is it possible this is a human being and that there is a soul here, which has once had all the possibilities of a soul?"

That is a dark figure in the picture we see. But there are so many, oh, such bright ones. Women with bright, shining, happy faces, rejoicing in Christ Jesus no matter what their circumstances, and men who are fervent in prayer and earnest in preaching Christ to their people.

Your daughter,

Alice

My dear Cousin Emma,

Your letter of March 15th came just a few days ago. Yes, I think I have received every one of your messages, so precious to me, for they ave come very frequently - far more so than I deserved when I have been silent so long. One reason is that every time I turned to my paper to write to you, I either had so little time it seemed useless to begin, or a business letter was before me which must have attention. I am so sorry, dear, you have been so long without a letter. Every one of yours has rebuked me for my neglect. I would resolve to write all that I do so long to tell you, and in trying to find the time for the long letter I wish to send, none would be written. How the time has gone so rapidly, I hardly know. During December I was getting settled, receiving freight, and becoming acquainted generally. Then came the holiday season, which the missionaries very rightfully take as a time of being more together than they can be at other times and of learning of each other's work. In January Dr. Field and I took up some work at the Royal Korean Hospital in Dr. Avison's absence. The greater part of February I spent in bed at Dr. Avison's with remittent fever, and took a little piece off the first of March in getting strong again. During March Dr. Field was away on a trip to Pyeng Yang leaving Miss Doty alone in the Girls' School of thirty one pupils. There was an epidemic of measles among the Koreans at the time, and I found my spare time all occupied with eleven cases in the school and quite a little practice in the neighborhood. And now April has almost slipped away. During the last two weeks I have found not a little work in going through all my boxes and preparing all my worldly possessions to pass through the summer rainy season. From what I hear it seems as if almost everything is likely to suffer from mold, moths, rust, etc. Perhaps it is not so bad as it seems. Of course language study is to be kept ahead of everything else. The hours from ten to twelve every day are kept exclusively for that and whenever possible I try to study also from two to four in the afternoon. Sometimes even when not interrupted I find two hours a day is about all I can do of constant study with my teacher. Often the learning of the language seems quite a hopeless task, but we new comers are told we must have nothing to say about that till the first three years of drudgery are past.

And now, dear, I realize it is just the barest outline of the past few months that I have given you. The inner life and the details are what you want to know and what I long to talk over with you. What can I tell you of all that might be told? First, - I am very happy here - difficulties are not necessarily discouragements. My heavenly Father's hand was so evident in sending me here and His daily keeping power is so precious there is no room for anything but peace concerning His plan for me and its carrying out.

The stations and definite work of the new comers in this Mission will probably be decided at our annual meeting in Sept. or Oct. Only a little while ago I learned that the N.Y. Board intended I should go directly to Pyeng Yang and spend this year there expecting that to be my permanent field, - but they did not tell me so, and I am rather glad I did not know it, for Seoul seems to be the best place to gain an idea of all the departments of the work both north and south of here, and if I should eventually be sent to Pyeng Yang I shall be glad of this first year in the Capital. Mr. Lee came to see me for a few minutes while I was sick at the Hospital and he was making a flying trip to Seoul. I had such a cordial invitation to visit them when Dr. Field and Miss Shields went north but was not strong enough just then. Probably I shall go during the summer to stay for a time with Mrs. Baird in Pyeng Yang and return for the annual meeting.

The Tung Chow station, or, rather the Shantung Mission, China sent requests to the

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Korean Mission and the N.Y. Board that I should be transferred there for the sake of their medical work, believing that evangelistic workers are more needed here than physicians. From last week's letter from N.Y. I think it is decided I shall remain here. I could go cheerfully if [it] were clearly right, but am very glad to stay here. I dearly love this land and people.

April 25th '98

Last Saturday I came down here to Chandarry, a little village three miles outside the City gates and about six miles from Yun-mote-kol [YŪn-māt-kŏl], the district of Seoul where I have been living. A Mr. Ko who is a Christian, lets me rent a tiny room in his house and here I am going to stay for a while to be out among the people where I cannot hear a word of English and can hear Korean from morning till night. Saturday evening the women crowded into my room and we sang hymns for about half an hour, one of the Christian women afterward leading in prayer. Sabbath morning we went over the hills half a mile to the little church attended by the Christians of the neighboring villages and presided over by a native pastor [unordained evangelist] who comes out from the city each Sabbath. There were thirty women and twenty babies in our side of the little room - there is a curtain, you know, between the men and the women. I have been impressed ever since I came with the prominent place the Korean Christians give to prayer. It bears a large part in their services. And at any time when a difficulty arises or a special gift is desired from the Lord, those of the simplest and strongest faith at once say "Let us pray about it."

It is good to be in this Christian household. Not an angry word have I heard since I came. The wife seems to be a very earnest Christian and a lovely character. She has gone about in the neighboring villages so that many women are "Jesus believers" because of her words. Yesterday afternoon as I was walking along a narrow path through the fields I stopped to speak a word of greeting to a woman gathering greens, and could understand just enough of her reply to know that she said, "Lady, you and I are sisters, are we not? For God in heaven is your Father and mine." They call us "Poo-eeen" or "Pu-ine" - (the latter is a better spelling, I think) which is a high term about corresponding to our word "lady". I am a "wee-won pu-ine" or doctor lady. Monday morning after seeing me at the service there were quite a number of women, young and old, who crowded in to tell me of their ailments. I had to say "Medicine is lacking here, and merely to look at your trouble is useless. You will have to go to the Hospital in the City." There was a Christian man sitting on the ground in the little courtyard at the time, weaving straw thatching, and as the women turned away from my room, he attracted their attention and kept it for about twenty minutes while he preached Christ to them. It was joy to watch his face and theirs while I sent up prayer that they might receive the Word of truth in their hearts. This man and Mr. Ko's wife make me think of Paul preaching while making tents and of his admonition "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season."

April 26th.

Will you pay me a visit this bright Spring morning and see my surroundings? I am sitting out on the "maru" [마루], or portion of raised flooring partially surrounding the courtyard. A gateway leads to another courtyard and the apartments occupied by the family. My room, 8 X 12 feet opens from the "maru". The walls are mud-covered inside and out with heavy brown Korean paper; there is a good substantial tile roof, and withing, the ceiling and floor are of heavy oiled paper. I have a folding cot and straw mattress, a telescope basket for clothing, a box of provisions and a tiny oil stove. With these necessities and Korean books and my Bible, I am quite comfortable and happy. A boy

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brings me water and is my means of communication with the City. My teacher comes down every morning.

Cousin Emma, I would not have had you chide yourself once that I did not know of Miss Stryker in Nagasaki. Every experience that has come has been good for me. I am afraid entirely too much has been made at home of the Russian steamer trip. It was not exactly pleasant, but was far from real hardship or danger.

My teacher has come and my boy is going to the City, so rather than keep you waiting longer I shall say Goodbye. I am glad for what you wrote of Dr. Campbell [Dr. Edgar Campbell, to whom Alice's father, Charles Fish, once referred as "my prospective son-in-law"*] as I have heard no word from any other source. Do not fear you have hurt me. The sore spots have all been healed. I wish I could answer all your dear letters and write all I would. It makes me glad to know of how the Lord is using you to give messages to others. Some time He will let you see how full has been the message of your life. I do wonder if it will be possible for you to be with Father and Mother this summer. It would be so much to them.

Give warmest love to Uncle James, Aunt Carrie and my cousins. And for you, dear Cousin, a heart full of love and the prayer your deepest longing may be "satisfied with Jesus every day."

Lovingly yours,
M. Alice Fish

Seoul, Korea

I hope this slight envelope will bear the wear of the journey - it is all I have out here.

*See letter of Charles Fish to Hester Fish, Dec. 3, 1895

(from the collection of Alice Moffett Starkey, daughter of Charles Hull Moffett, oldest grandchild of Mary Alice Fish [Moffett] and Samuel Austin Moffett. Photo copy in the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Dear Friends of Benicia Presbytery:

There is very much of encouragement that comes to us in the Lord's work here in Korea, and we want to share all the blessings with you as well as have you bear the responsibility with us. For the work is all one, and is first our Master's to direct, then ours to perform by His enabling. Since I came to Korea I realize more than ever before the oneness of Christian work over all the world, when I see how we turn toward our fellow-workers in the home land; how we value every link that binds us to you; and how we reach out after your prayers, your sympathy, yes, and *your growth in grace*, for we know that spiritual quickening *there* means blessings *here*, and that as the prayer of faith prevails *there*, more abundant answers shall be *ours here*. Our God reigneth! The treasure house of our King is overflowing. We have tasted of its riches, and He is longing to give more and more. Is he waiting to be inquired of by any of us? Do not cease to pray that the power of God's word and of the Holy Spirit may be very great here in Korea. I know you are praying for me, and not only has the knowledge been a source of help, but in graciously caring for and blessing me, my Heavenly Father is answering the prayers of those whom He led to make it possible for me to come here.

My time for the first year is, as you know, given almost wholly to language study. One often wishes there were no such barrier as the language standing in the way. But one of our missionaries has said that it is a good thing we are not able at once to go out among the people and talk to them. For the Koreans' habits of life and of thought are so different from ours that we need to learn not only their language but their customs and methods of thinking and of reasoning, in order to present the truth of Christ in the best way to them.

A few weeks ago I was called to see a boy about fourteen years old who was very ill with pneumonia - even then almost beyond all help. He was an earnest little Christian, and his parents were adherents of the church. We did what we could, but every hour the little fellow grew steadily worse. Only a little while before he passed away, he begged his mother to wash his face and hands very clean, so he would be ready when Jesus should come for him. He said he would soon be in his heavenly Father's house, and seemed not only ready but glad to go. But the parents were not willing to give up their boy, and in their grief turned away from their heavenly Father. The child had been the strong link between them and God's people. He taught them hymns, read the Scriptures to them, and was teaching them to read for themselves. The relatives said: "Now you had better give up this 'Jesus doctrine'; two children have died since you began listening to those people, and the other two will die if you do not stop. You must sacrifice to the spirits to save the rest of your family." And the father, while not taking the lead in the heathen rites, did not oppose what was done. But the Lord Jesus had a tender hold on these parents, and did not long permit them to stray. The second Sabbath after the boy's death the father rose in church, confessed that he had been rebellious against God, had had a very wicked mind, and had permitted heathen rites to be performed in his house. But now he was truly penitent, and, with his wife, begged for baptism. Both have since been baptized, and are eager for some one to teach them to read God's word.

Two weeks ago I came down to this little village of Chantari, about three miles outside the city gates, where by being all alone with the people for a time I hope to accomplish more with the language. There are several Christian families in the neighborhood, and the women of these households form the nucleus of a little company that gathers in my room every evening for prayers. After several hymns I read a few

verses from John's Gospel, and one of the women explains the verses and leads in prayer. Just over the hill is a small church building where, on Sabbaths and Wednesday evenings, about forty men and women gather from the villages near by, and are led by a native pastor [unordained evangelist].

Yesterday while I was studying with my teacher, a very rough-looking woodman came into the courtyard; he listened a moment, and when he found I was reading from the New Testament his face showed the greatest interest, and he would now and then exclaim: "Oh, that is good! yes, that is so!" with great earnestness. No one needed to tell me the Word of Life had entered that man's heart, for the love of Christ was shining in his face, and his whole being responded to God's Word. I could not help thinking, "How little one would expect such a glowing spirit out among Korean hills; yet the Shepherd sought and found this sheep - and *He* knows every one of His own, however hidden from man." My teacher explained that this woodman said: "A few years ago I used to gamble and drink a great deal of 'syoul' (Korean wine), but when I knew Jesus, He took this wicked mind away from me so I hated these things. At one time I was caught and beaten for being a Christian, but I said to the men who bound me, 'It does not matter what you do - you may hurt my body, but you cannot injure my soul.'"

A young man from a neighboring village told me today how a few years ago he heard of Dr. Underwood's school, began attending, and there first heard of Jesus. Taking home a New Testament one day, his father was so angry that he beat him severely each day for five days, and threatened to kill him if he returned to the school. He said: "Though my body was sore, my heart kept saying, 'I want to go to school and to church,' and I did go as soon as I could. Now I know that beating was just what Jesus told about, and said would come to some of his followers. My mother is now a Christian, and my father is better than last year, for he lets us live in the house, although he does not yet believe in Jesus. Please pray for him every day." He turned away singing "He Leadeth Me, Oh Blessed Thought," and I lifted my heart in thanksgiving that the Lord had given him strength when only a boy to bear persecution for His name's sake.

The country here is specially beautiful just now. Back from the Han river stretch rice and barley fields and softly rolling, pine-covered hills, dotted with villages. The grass is thick with wild flowers, the pink azalea and sweet-flowering trees are in full bloom, and one says "Surely Korea is a fair land." But here by the roadside I could show you an immense heap of loose stones which nearly obstructs all passage. And to me as I look at it, the sun seems suddenly less bright and nature less beautiful, for I know that every stone in the great pile means a prayer offered to the spirits in the trees, and the bits of bright-colored cloth and paper tied to the bushes represent earnest petitions from hearts that do not know to whom they pray but are afraid not to pray at all. The simple, childlike faith of the Korean Christians is beautiful to see. But the many, *many* darkened souls all about us are a great burden, to be daily brought to the feet of the dear Savior who died for them.

And now, dear friends, may the words and the spirit of Ephesians III: 14-21 be our prayer for each other; and may our service be acceptable to the King because wrought by His Holy Spirit through us.

Yours in His Name,
M. Alice Fish

(from the Samuel Hugh Moffett collection of Samuel Austin Moffett papers)

Pyeng Yang, Korea

June 10, 1898

Annie Laurie Adams Baird

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:-

We are in difficulties again out here in Korea about our hymnbook, and as the ladies of the New York Board helped us out so effectually two or three years ago, we thought perhaps you would not mind laying the matter before them again. The difficulty is this: Our Korean Christians are getting too numerous, and they are too fond of hymns. With the fund that we have on hand, two hundred dollars silver, we can't keep the book in print but a short time, and then we are besieged on all hands for hymnbooks, until we really almost dread to go out among the people. Everywhere the missionaries go they find that the people have learned, or are learning the whole book by heart. Of course they do not know the tunes, but they chant them over in their own way, and never seem to weary.

Last year the hymnbook committee of the mission went to work with all the time and strength they could spare, and prepared a practically new book, many new numbers added, and the old hymns carefully sifted and corrected. Before this new book was ready for the press, the old edition was exhausted, and when after the usual delays in printing, the new book finally made its appearance, about six weeks ago, the people seized on it like starving creatures, and the edition of 6000 is melting so fast that we must see to getting out another and larger edition at once. An edition of 12,000 will cost six hundred dollars American money, or five hundred more in addition to the sum of one hundred dollars which the ladies of the New York Board have already furnished us. Is that too much to hope for? It is the very least we ought to have in order to supply the demand.

You will readily see that the fund we now have on hand, one hundred dollars gold, did not pay for our last edition of 6000. Neither did it pay for the edition gotten out last year of 3000. The deficiency we made up ourselves, and up to the present we have felt that we could advance the money to do so, but the demand is so great that we will have to ask help of somebody. I suppose the ladies understand that the book is not given away. The Koreans pay what it is worth, as they do for almost everything that we are able to furnish them, so that the money put into the books comes back in the long run. What we need is money enough to print it in the first place, and this, if secured, will furnish a standing fund for each successive edition.

Where the books go is no mystery when one considers reports that came in from two trips each, made by two members of our station last month, of a thousand catechumens received, and I forget how many hundreds received into the church. Isn't that a loud call to the faithful workers at home to praise God and prepare to meet increased responsibilities? O, we are happy, happy as we watch the growth of the good seed in hearts and families and whole communities all around us.

I don't know that I have anything more to add except the strong hope that the ladies will be able to help us out. We can't withhold the books from the people and will go ahead with the next edition trusting that the money will be forthcoming from some quarter.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Laurie A. Baird

(Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #178, Vol. 7, letter #23)

Pyongyang, Korea

June 21, 1898

Alice Fish

(Transcribed from the diaries of Dr. Eva Field [Pieters] and addressed to Dr. Field and Miss Doty)

After reaching here I put off writing for a while to have more news to give you and now there is so much the question is how to tell it.

We left Chemulpo about 9 o'clock Monday evening on the Kyeng Chae, and at six Tuesday evening arrived at Chinnampo in a regular and orderly manner as the Kyung Chae should do. In the cabin there were 2 Korean women, 2 French priests, 6 Japanese, Mr. Baird, Mr. Bunker and myself. We followed the shore closely and had some pretty bits of scenery.

I finished the 14[th] chapter of John and Mr. Baird quizzed me on some of the forms and part of the time we took turns in reading aloud parts of Chinese Characteristics. My "yo" cover filled with straw made a fine bed but I woke during the first night to find the great lump (which I dreamed was a clod of earth) in the straw was only the inverted wash basin under the mattress. I wonder if the pet tiger cub was a part of the Kyung Chae when Dr. Field came up. That animal and Mr. Bunker's dog together made great fun for us.

At Chinnampo we had to wait over night for the red tape of the Custom House & then 'til 2 p.m. Wednesday for the tide so we landed and made an exploration of the "settlement", selecting our lots from those staked off for the sale. There are some very substantial Korean houses going up just outside the port limits.

Coming on up the river we reached the landing place between 6 and 7 p.m. but the delay in transferring to a sam pan was just enough so the tide had turned before we reached the city. There were the alternatives of returning to the boat, staying all night in the sampan or landing & walking to the city. We chose the latter as we were only 10 li away & arrived here at 11 p.m. leaving the boatman to come up with the freight on the morning tide.

Where shall I begin to tell you all that has happened since I came & how can I express my happiness at being here.

On Thursday Mrs. Baird gave a birthday dinner for Mr. Baird, inviting Mr. Bunker and the bachelors of the station. Friday, Miss Best and I were invited to Mrs. Wells' to dinner. Saturday evening all the gentlemen came up here to call. As they entered the compound we saw them go to the fence corner & each take a good-sized board and write his name upon it to bring up. By the time they reached the front door Miss Best and I had the woodbox from the kitchen ready as a card receiver.

Sabbath, of course, was the best day of all. We went to the women's Sabbath School in the morning and to their service in the afternoon using the little organ for both. Mr. Moffett led the foreign service in the afternoon & gave us a most helpful sermon from the text "In that He Himself hath suffered being tempted He is able also to succor them that are tempted." Mr. Moffett does not seem well to me. He is over-working or is burdened by something in particular. All the missionaries were present at the Sabbath service. We numbered eighteen. Monday we had the station meeting. We have already taken one beautiful walk, though a short one; and this p.m. we, Methodists and all, are going on a picnic to Kijah's grave and the point.

Miss Best has organized a little school in connection with the women's church with an enrollment of 14 and spends part of each morning with them. I go down the first thing in the morning to give them half an hour's singing lesson, then I study with Miss Best's teacher till noon and she takes him in the p.m. The site for the new church has been selected and the Koreans are greatly pleased with it. A training class for teachers opened yesterday in which Mr. Baird, Mr. Moffett & Mr. Lee each have a course. Dr's house [Dr. Wells] is progressing finely. The tiling on Mr. Noble's [Methodist] home is completed also.

Dr. Hall [Methodist missionary, Rosetta Sherwood Hall] has opened her dispensary. The country is beautiful. Do come up, Miss Doty. There is a warm welcome waiting you. Everybody has asked me when you were coming & when I spoke of Kahn floors to be laid, all with one voice said, "She ought to put that work in the hands of some trusted Korean." I hope you will accept the decision of Pyeng Yang station.

John Baird climbed up to me yesterday & informed me that God made that thing (mole) on my forehead, so it was all right it should be there. He readily permits himself to take playthings away from brother but stands up as his champion when he imagines any one else is going to abuse him. He is brim full of affection.

Last week Mr. Lee, Mr. Whittemore & Dr. Wells visited a remarkable cave about seventy li from here & are very enthusiastic in their descriptions of it. They went straight down in one place about 30 or 40 feet by a rope ladder & in one of the caverns found the body of a man which crumbled on being touched. There were a couple of brass dishes beside the skeleton & even they broke in pieces when handled. Mr. Baird asked Mr. Lee if he knew anything about the man. "Oh yes, he even knew his name" - it was 원근데디 (One gōne dead ee). Just show me the man who can get ahead of Mr. Lee.

Well, I found my furniture from Japan safe and sound in the Customs at Chemulpo. Mrs. Jones remarked she had a good sized house with not much furniture so she has willingly taken it for the present. Dr. Field, may I ask you to finish up this expensive business for me by getting a check on a Yokohama bank & forwarding it to MacArthur? I shall be glad to have it over.

Do not be surprised if no mail comes for me for I left directions to have it forwarded from Chemulpo with Mr. Baird's for the next 6 weeks. On the other hand I suppose I need not be surprised if it all goes to you as before. It is ever so good to be up here & I am very glad I came. Give my love to all the Seoul friends.

With very much love for your two selves,

Yours most lovingly,

M. Alice Fish

Pyeng Yang, Korea

June 27, 1898

Samuel A. Moffett

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

It is certainly a pleasure to write to you, after having such a day as we had yesterday. Ever since our return from the visits to the Whang Hai province Mr. Lee and I have been busy examining candidates for baptism. These have all been on the roll of catechumens for from one to three years and of the number we yesterday baptized 45 of whom 23 were men and 22 women. This gives us in the Pyeng Yang church an enrollment of over 200 communicants to which others will be added at our September Communion service as there are still a great many catechumens awaiting examination.

The church is now nicely organized with an assistant pastor (unordained), whose salary is wholly provided by the church, two leaders (unordained elders), and three deacons. It is a great pleasure to direct the affairs of the church through this Board of Officers with whom I hold meetings twice a month. Under the instruction and discipline they are receiving it will not be long before they can be safely entrusted with the government of the church.

You will not wonder at my eagerness to get back to the work and you will know that I am now rejoicing in it again when I am able to report that in the less than 4 months since my return I have had the privilege of examining and baptizing 197 men & women and of receiving over 500 catechumens, while in the section to the north which is under my care there are over 20 groups still awaiting a visit for examination and organization.

The two trips to Whang Hai province with Mr. Lee were full of pleasure although they demanded the very hardest kind of work, that work which draws most on one's vitality. I realize anew the fact that our present force is not equal to the strain of properly supervising this great work. Think of two men within a month trying to visit over 60 churches - carefully examine over 400 candidates for baptism - hold services one or more in all these places, baptize 300 people and meet and receive nearly 1000 catechumens, - besides discussing all the various phases of the church work, counseling with the officers and members and attempting the solution of many difficult problems presented. With such hurried visits and so much requiring careful attention, justice cannot possibly be done the work and while for the present the very momentum of the movement carries it along - we shall soon lose greatly and meet much more serious difficulties unless we can in some way provide for more thorough instruction and training, more direct touch and closer oversight.

I am told that Mr. Speer and Mr. Grant thought the idea of opening a new station in this region to be a mistake and I am not ready to say that their knowledge of the results in other fields of opening several stations in a given extent of territory does not warrant them in so thinking. I wish however they could have visited that section of our field and have been brought face to face with its condition. I am quite sure that we must provide for a closer touch and greater

attention than can be given under present arrangements. The need is a pressing one and the promise is wonderful. We ought to have at least two men and two women available who could spend several months in the year in that district - making prolonged visits sufficient to bring them into a more direct touch with the field, its leaders, its needs & problems than can be secured by these running visits which are a "touch & go" contact. The Roman Catholics have two priests in that region, reaping from our seed-sowing, seeking to create discord in our ranks, annoying our people and doing all they can to confuse and nullify our work. Since our return we have had visits from eight of our groups - the men coming to consult us on various questions and to ask aid in adjusting church affairs. They feel the need of our personal presence and in every place men and women begged me to plan for placing a missionary among them. The whole section has united in prayer that the Lord will send a missionary to live among them.

With reference to this work I feel that we must look ahead a little and plan so as to avoid loss because of failure to adequately provide for oversight & instruction.

Mr. Baird goes home next spring and Mr. Lee the year following. There is no provision for anyone to look after their work while absent. Mr. Hunt will be able to do it to a certain extent although at the present rate of increase he will have upon his hands by that time a work which in itself will require all his time. Mr. Whittemore's time is already wholly absorbed by the northern work which is growing beautifully.

We cannot afford to ignore the present promising situation and we ought to take energetic measures towards providing for oversight of all the work.

There is no reason why we should allow other Protestant Churches or the Roman Catholics to reap the harvest from our sowing - if we can provide the reapers ourselves. I have no doubt we shall go to the Annual Meeting this fall with an urgent request for more men and women either as re-enforcements for this station or with a view to opening new stations as may seem most desirable. I shall hope that in anticipation of this request you may be able to secure the men and money so as to be able to send them this winter - without having to wait until next year's graduating classes provide the men.

It would be worth much to our work now if our new members already had the language and could enter upon full work. During these few years each month gained counts for more than a year's work ten years hence.

We have received the Appropriations and the "cut" has been apportioned by the Finance Committee. Our share is \$1409.30 (yen) which is an improvement upon last year although it is serious enough, especially so since the last Annual Meeting by an oversight failed to provide for several important needs among which is a Helper for Mr. Lee and an itinerating fund for new members of the station.

6/27/98 - p.3 S.A.M.

Dr. Wells' house is under way and approaching completion. Dr. Fish is now here with Miss Best and both are hard at work - preparing especially with a view to village itinerating. Mr. Baird is directing the Normal Class now in session and Mr. Lee and I are assisting with an hour a day given to teaching. We are all of course deeply interested in the war, praying that peace may soon be declared and that the result may be the opening of benighted Spain, Cuba & the Philippines to the clear light of the Gospel. I have obtained so much profit & pleasure from reading Mr. Speer's reports on the "Mission in Korea" and the "Mission in Japan", the latter read in Nagasaki, that I am led to prefer a request for a copy of each of his reports on the different missions visited.

Trusting that your health is still good and sincere regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffett

Pyongyang, Korea

June 29, 1898

Lula Ribble Wells

My dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Having been appointed to write the Station letter for this month I have asked the Secretary for some statistics and herewith give them. She reports for the last of the Chinese year (or to January 21, 1898), of the congregations under the care of Pyongyang Station, 125 churches, 35 of which are owned by the congregations, the remainder are houses of Christians or such places. Collections (exclusive of local building funds), \$537.24 silver; building fund (other than local), \$46.40. Pyongyang building fund so far is over 300 yen.

Mr. Moffett and Mr. Lee report 300 baptized and 986 catechumens received during their two day's trip into Whang Hai Do. Mr. Baird visited 8 places on the Western Circuit and baptized 29 and received 63 catechumens.

Mr. Whittemore has returned from a 6 weeks trip in North Pyeng Yang Do and Wei-Ju [의주] - reports having received 98 catechumens.

There were 22 women and 23 men baptized last Sunday in the city church, and Mr. Moffett and Mr. Lee are still very busy examining candidates for baptism.

This, as you will see, shows that from April to June there were 1147 catechumens received and 374 people baptized.

Messrs. Baird, Moffett and Lee have just closed a class for the instruction of teachers. The attendance from outside was about 15 and some 13 or 15 from in and around the city. Kim Chung Sabi (our former teacher) has been appointed an un-ordained pastor of the city church - salary paid by the natives. The site for the new church building has been selected on a hillside in the center of the city.

The attendance at the hospital during May was over 1600 and in June, 1096. The religious services are held as usual, special attention being given by one of the deacons of the church.

Han Suk Chin (Mr. Moffett's helper) returned from Kang Kei (about 300 miles northwest of here) and reports no Christians there, but as elsewhere, great interest manifested.

Dr. Fish arrived several days ago and we are all very much pleased with her. She is the kind we want in Pyongyang. Miss Best made a 19 days visit into Su han [?] and since her return home has opened a girls' school in the woman's building in the city.

The girls' school outside the city, of which I have charge, is closed for the summer. The house which is being built for us will be ready for occupancy in about two weeks.

With the kindest wishes and the hope that you may remember us and our work in your prayers, I am

Most sincerely

Lula Ribble Wells (Mrs. J. Hunter Wells)

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:-

Yours of February 1st should have been answered long ere this but, as you well know, I am a poor correspondent and then, too, with my hands full, I have been on the sick list so that I had to leave off work for quite a while. I have just commenced work again and as a result of this lay-off I find that the work has been piling up.

I will be glad to write the sketch that you desire and would be glad to know about how long you desire it to be. In this connection, I would suggest that any sketch of Korean work by our mission will necessarily show up in a very marked way the Nevius system of self-support and it seems to me that the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance in Autumn of 1899 and the grand Mission Conference to be held in New York in 1900 should be made the times for bringing this system and its results before the whole Missionary Body. In no field has it been tried as in Korea and having been tried here from the first the results are worth considering. One of the great difficulties in the carrying out of any such system is that you have other missions working right alongside of you who will not attempt to follow such a plan and as a result it to a certain extent nullifies your efforts in that direction.

RE MISSION PROPERTY:-

I feel that I ought to call your attention to one little matter in connection with the mission property in Chong Dong: that is the property near the Legations. You will remember that about a year ago the "Old Girl School" property was sold to His Majesty and a strip along the side of that on which Dr. Vinton was living so as to give an outlet at the back. Dr. Vinton (although the Mission did not agree with him) considered that this made his place untenable and at no cost to the mission secured a house in another part of the city to which he removed and thus left his house vacant. After his house was vacated, the station assigned it to Miss Wambold (who had been assigned work in the Chong Dong Church); and Dr. Whiting, whose main work is in the country, occupies it with her. The house is therefore needed by the mission and if the mission were to sell it they would have to buy another house. The house is in a very poor condition and will have to be thoroughly overhauled or else a new house will have to be put up on the property a little back of the present house and the present house pulled down and such material used as is available. But now I hear that His Majesty is desirous of buying the property back of us which is this very property and its sale to His Majesty would practically make both my house and Mr. Miller's untenable, as we would have all the drainage from their property. Then too it would hardly be worth the Mission's while to sell all these places and not only leave its missionaries without houses but force them to spend a lot of valuable time in the superintendence of work on new buildings. I do not suppose that the mission or Board would think of making the sale but I thought I would write this to you so that you would know how the matter stands. The property back of us is on higher ground that drains onto our place. You will remember too that at a good deal of expense to the Board as well as to me, our house was specially fitted up with heater and water, etc., so as to make it fit for Mrs. Underwood to live in with her tendency to rheumatism and it would be a great pity to make all this useless and then, too, I do not think that it would pay the Board to put Mr. Miller and me at the work of superintendent builders after all the expense that they have been at to prepare us for our work. If such a thing should happen as the Board being desirous of selling, I should like to have the refusal, for I am right at my work where I am and if I move I will be further from it. I should be glad to be assured that the Board do not intend to sell.

RE PRINCE:-

The return of the Prince was not at his father's wish at all but from all that we can hear he received a cable from some of the rebels who are in Japan who seem to think that now when the Russians have gone they will have a free hand to rebel again and that the Prince would be a valuable hand for them to hold. He is there now and I have no idea what he will do or what will

happen. I wish much for the good of this land that he could have been kept in America but this was not to be. From a political point of view everything is getting worse and worse and I cannot see where it will end. It is a wonder to me that this people will stand so much. There will be a limit to their endurance and what the final result will be no one can foresee and it is simply our duty to spread a knowledge of THE TRUTH as fast and as wide as we can that a larger number shall be ready to stand on the side of the truth when the trial shall come.

I have received the statement of the Prince's accounts and as far as I can see, they are all right. I shall send them to Mr. Brown.

RE MISSION MEETING:-

The annual meeting of the Mission will be held about the middle of October. You will at that time hear good reports from all parts of the field and in fact in Korea at this time the only thing that all looks bright is Mission work. It is a matter of great rejoicing to us all to see how well the work comes on and it is my firm belief that the only reason why we do not see like results in the south and east is that we have not put forth the effort there that we have in other places and I have seen that **WHEREVER WE HAVE PUT FORTH THE EFFORT, LIKE RESULTS HAVE ALWAYS FOLLOWED.** We should not for a moment think that the North and West are the only places where work can be done with much success. The whole of this land is ready for the Gospel and Oh that we were ready to give it to them.

I have received some letters that have bothered me not a little hinting at some unpleasant action in regard to me at the next Meeting. I cannot imagine to what it can refer and the letters simply were statements from friends that I had their sympathy and confidence. I cannot think what it can mean but must wait and see.

RE SPECIAL REQUEST:-

As you will remember, last year in the Fall of 1897 Dr. Avison and I were ordered to take a trip to Japan, etc. for our health. I had been quite sick and it was not known whether I would get well but when the fever had gone it was deemed necessary for me to take a trip: and the Mission, as a mission at its annual meeting, took it upon itself to "instruct" Dr. Avison to take his family for a sea trip. These were necessary and on our return it was found necessary to ask for a special appropriation which was done but as yet no word of any action by the Board has reached us although this year's appropriations have all come in and that was on last year. The trip was a necessity and we will be much straightened if the Board does not grant the amount and this is especially so of Dr. Avison with his large family.

Mrs. Underwood enjoyed much the privilege of seeing you and the friends at the Board rooms when she was in New York and arrived back here safely and was able to undertake some of her work as soon as she got back. Mr. Moffett and Mr. Moore are both back and we are expecting Mr. Gifford before the annual meeting so that we will be better able to push things and to keep up with the work that we have in hand. But I must be closing. Please tell me at what date you desire the sketch. With kindest regards from us both,

YOURS SINCERELY,

H.G. Underwood

Pyongyang, Korea

August 8, 1898

Graham Lee

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:-

It is hot and rainy and as this is our set up time we haven't very much to report for this month. Dr. Wells' house is just about finished. We are waiting now for the hardware and when that is on, the house will be ready to move into. Dr. and Mrs. Wells are now in Chefoo giving Mrs. Wells her much-needed change.

Mr. Whittemore has been on his back for about a month with a run of fever but he is up and about again now. Mr. Hunt expects to leave tomorrow or next day for Japan on highly important business - - that is, to him. Before Wells left he moved his things out of Moffett's house and now Whittemore has moved in with Moffett and Hunt has been repapering Whittemore's old quarters getting them ready for his bride. Dr. Fish has been spending the summer with us getting used to the Pyongyangites and the Korean language.

About September 1st I expect to leave for Chefoo with my family. It is a matter of teeth. Both Mrs. Lee and I must find a dentist very soon or lose part of what remaining teeth we have. I suppose we ought to have gone this summer and not waited until September when our country work begins. But I felt I ought to remain until Wells' house was finished, as the work was put in my hands.

The church [members] here in Pyeng Yang have subscribed about three hundred yen \$300 towards a new church building here in the city. The site has been purchased and most of the grading done. We wish to put up a building that will seat from one thousand to fifteen hundred people and we want the people to pay just as much toward it as they possibly can. But I am sure they are too poor to raise it all.

I am looking forward to the fall and winter work with a good deal of dread. There is so much work to be done and so much more than we can possibly do - and how to do it properly is a problem, the solution of which is beyond me at present. Take my own district, for an example: there are about seventy five places where people meet on the Sabbath for worship, and some fifteen hundred or two thousand people that live in a district some fifty miles square; and all these people look to me to be taught the way of life. Can one man do such a work as that and do it properly? If the Mission does not appoint someone to help me this next year I fear the work will suffer very greatly. One good strong lick put in now is worth twenty five licks put in ten years from now. At present the people are willing, anxious, begging - yes demanding that they be taught and if we don't give them what they ask the door which is flung so wide open now may be shut in our faces if we do not press in.

We hear that you have been ill and we sincerely trust that this letter will find you restored to health again.

Sincerely yours,

Graham Lee

Seoul, Korea

September, '98

M. Alice Fish

My dear Aunt Lute and Lucia,

If every thought of you were a letter, or if all the intended letters had been sent, your "Received" pigeon holes would have been filled long ago with epistles from a certain corner of the earth I know of. But unfortunately, as Cousin Emma Paige said in her letter the other day, the mails have not yet learned to carry thoughts without the media of paper and ink, and the transfer does take much time.

Somehow the funny things in Korean life always make me think of you, Aunt Lute, and I wish you could have them just as they occur. Those are not the only times I think of you, however; for life is pretty sober out here, - we have to make the most of little things to have a hearty laugh.

Our Korean house servants are the ones who strike us oftenest in a certain place which is pretty close to both laughter and tears, and if their actions are apt to fall upon us on the tears side, it is by all means best to stay out of the kitchen and eat our meals asking no questions. The good souls generally mean well and try their utmost, but they have never seen stoves or tablecloths before; - and how should they know by intuition all about our foreign concoctions. As for cleanliness, -well, after patient teaching the next generation may develop some capacity for understanding what it means.

After all, why do Americans waste so much time cleaning chickens for cooking? Koreans remove the feathers and plunge the fowl in, head, claws and crop just as he is. This is one of their feast delicacies. Our servants however do try hard to anticipate all our strange wishes for having things clean, and so the cook one day when I was making salad for a special occasion, removed the shells from the hard boiled eggs and carefully washed each shining white surface to get it clean. A good many of their cleanly (?) ways are put on though when we are near or are heard approaching. When I scalded some fruit in a large kettle a few days ago, some happened to gather (?) on the bottom and going out in search of that same kettle half an hour later I found it at the bottom of the swill water barrel soaking!

Dr. Field came very near being struck on the tear side one day when she entered the kitchen and found the wet floor cloth carefully spread over her newly-baked bread. Part of the time I was boarding at the Girls' School in Seoul. It had only a boy to bring wood and water to my bedroom up on the hill. When he blossomed out one day in a suit of clean clothes I determined to teach him to do room work, and spent several mornings on the mysteries of bedmaking. Saturday morning I laid out the clean bedding telling him to put the clean sheet on top, how to place the hem, etc. But I didn't tell him to take off the under sheet, so that night found me trying to get between the three. Why he took off the soiled pillow cases I have never discovered.

Mr. and Mrs. Baird in Pyeng Yang received the other day their Fall and Winter supply of groceries and Mrs. Baird set a new Korean to open a half barrel of sugar in the store room. She found him a little later working away to pry off the hoops; in a few moments more the barrel would have been effectually opened.

The Koreans are a simple, kindhearted, lovable people; there is something fascinating about their very childishness. I simply cannot tell how I love these dear Christian women. It is an honor to be their friend and hold the place in their hearts which they give to one.

Three Sabbaths ago was Communion service in Pyeng Yang. The men and women worship in separate buildings for lack of room, but this time, that the service might be one of closer fellowship, it was announced that only the communicants should assemble in the men's church which holds perhaps 450. Even with the church members it was over crowded, and outsiders crowded all the openings that stand for doors and windows. Forty persons - 17 men and 23 women were received into the church by baptism; this being the number the missionaries had found time to examine carefully. There are 50 or 60 more under instruction and waiting to be examined for membership. The service was very solemn and impressive. Oh, what an object lesson in the power of the Gospel it is to see these people in their old lives, degraded care-worn and hopeless, and then see them sitting at the table of the Lord, transformed in heart and in face, and worshiping in the simplicity of true faith. As I sat there that Sabbath it seemed the happiest spot on earth and this the most blessed work that could be.

This letter should be headed "Yellow Sea"; I am writing it on the return trip from Pyeng Yang to Seoul. The location and surroundings of Pyeng Yang are beautiful, but it is somewhat inaccessible. Overland from Seoul it is about eight days of hard travel; by the rivers and the sea it is anywhere from four to ten, according to native caprice, tides and the weather, though the run between the ports of the two places might be easily made in twenty hours. You know the Far East is prejudiced against haste.

On this present journey, I left Pyeng Yang early Friday morning, with my baggage loaded on the backs of two coolies, and walked across the city to the great gate which opens on the Tai Tong river. There taking a sam-pan (Korean flat-bottomed boat) with a couple of Koreans, we dropped down the beautiful river, with the tide in our favor, making about 60 "li" in 4½ hrs. There we found the little steamer Hai Riong at anchor. The current was still running almost like a mill race past her sides, so my Koreans went ashore to eat their rice and I waited a couple of hours before attempting to approach and board her. The little craft is owned half by Japanese and half by Koreans and so enjoys the distinction shared by very few vessels in the world, of flying the Korean flag from one of her masts. On board I engaged a miniature stateroom almost entirely filled with four small berths, - (how I should like to make one out of two of them,) and upon informing the ship master I wished the room alone, he graciously said "Yes, unless some Japanese or Korean woman should come on board." The best way to meet that

difficulty was to be the first one in with the door locked, - for there were plenty of berths in other rooms. So here I am in my room of state with a bullet hole for a window, carefully slanted upward toward the sky so the rain can pour into the berth just below it. We waited 18 hrs. before starting, then 10 hrs at the cargo port to load 700 bags of rice. After this there was apparently nothing but smooth sailing between us and Chemulpo, but no, that would have been unusual and very un-Korean, so when it began to rain a little we quietly slipped in behind an island and anchored for another 10 hrs. They have a great way of doing that, - to rest the engine if there is no other excuse.

Seoul, Sept. 23rd.

In Chemulpo I found the little boat up the Han river would leave at 3 a.m. so went on board about 10 the night before. It was none too early - I had but just spread my blankets in a corner of the tiny cabin when it began to fill with Chinese, Japanese and Koreans, who talked and smoked all night. As many as possible arranged themselves in parallel lines down the length of the room. Rousing from one of my 150 naps that night I found myself stretching out and planting my feet in a Japanese crown. Possibly I shocked the entire line! I did not ask. It is good to be here again, and I find life quite exciting after three months in the backwoods of the north. I am living with Miss Shields, of Pennsylvania, the trained nurse who was sent out by the New York Board. She is lovely. This p.m. we have had a meeting for women and girls. Mrs. Gifford came to talk to them and we taught them a song and some verses to take home with them. All seemed interested.

Lucia, dear, how are you? Working away again by the time this reaches you? What is it, specially, on hand now?

My poor little Nellie! I cannot at all realize that she has gone Home. The last bright letter she wrote me, dated only June 10th, told me so many of the things about her friend I wanted to know and spoke of Lucia in Santa Cruz. I wonder if I shall fully realize it till I go back.

Now with much love to all the relatives and friends and warmest love for you both,

Yours lovingly,

M. Alice Fish

EVANGELISTIC REPORT GIVEN AT PRESBYTERIAN ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to what appears in the General Report of the [Pyongyang] Station I need to make but a very short personal report so as to conform to the rules of the Mission.

Since my arrival on the field my time has been very largely spent in examining candidates for baptism both in Pyeng Yang and in the country and in attending to details of organization of churches and the general work. I have made 6 itinerating trips - 3 of them quite extended ones, and have had the privilege of examining between 400 and 500 candidates for baptism, of baptizing 265 adults and 14 infants and of receiving over a thousand catechumens, so it may readily be judged that time has not hung heavy on my hands. I have had, as Pastor of the Pyeng Yang Church, the oversight of Helpers Kim Chong-Syep, the Assistant Pastor whose salary is provided by the church. He is probably our most spiritually minded man, one most thoroughly imbued with the real spirit of the Gospel and one commanding the confidence of the whole church. I trust the time is not far distant when we shall take steps towards ordaining him as an elder.

Kim Tou-Yung, the Helper on my country circuit, has done excellent and faithful work. His support has been furnished in part by the *British and Foreign Bible Society* but I expect this year to have the Korean Church assume this while I ask the *B&FBS* to assist me in placing a colporteur on this circuit.

My personal teacher, Yi Yung-En, has been on the list of Helpers this year under Mr. Lee's direction until my return [from furlough]. He is one of our most energetic and capable men, a good preacher and a strong leader. I desire to retain him as my personal assistant in evangelistic work while I secure another man for the position of Literary assistant.

I have been able during the year to secure very valuable assistance for my country work from Mr. Hunt's teacher and Miss Best's teacher, who have gladly spent, in their work, any time they had during Mr. Hunt's or Miss Best's absence.

The statistics of the various Outstations in my care are reported in the general statistical report and so are not repeated here. The Pyeng Yang Church is strong, vigorous, self-supporting, influential and in excellent condition, although there remains much to be desired and it will require a great deal of time and attention to keep it in its present healthful condition. The Soon An, Sa Chon and Cha Chak churches and the Han Chun Church are the largest and strongest country churches. The former two are substantial and steady in their growth, showing great evangelistic zeal which is causing the establishment of other churches all around them. Han Chun and Sa Chon have both had cases calling for discipline, the former having gone through the process of sifting which comes to each group before it reaches its most solid steady state. Sal Kon Chai, an offshoot from Han Chun, is a most promising group of 30, the result of the work of one woman connected at the Han Chun church. From Sa Chon have sprung four groups with separate meeting places - one of them Pyeng Ni, having been made a new outstation which is growing nicely.

In Yung Yon County, the Kal Won church is in fair condition but it lacks a strong leader, while the small group at Tek Won Si is now rallying from the effects of continued and severe persecution. The new group at Tong Ho Ri and So Teuk Ni promise well, the men of these two groups having gathered from a dozen villages, coming through a heavy rain over muddy roads to meet me.

In Suk Chun county fine progress has been made. Song Te Ri, originating at Cha Chak, is a strong, aggressive group with two minor groups associated with it in the purchase and

establishment of a church building in the Suk Chun magistracy. They met with intense opposition from the people of the city who threatened to tear down the church and who did shut up two of the members, threatening them with death unless they gave up the house. A word to the magistrate secured the rights of our people to the possession of the building purchased and the good will of the people is being gained. Sa San and Po Min Tong start out well with good strong leaders - the leader of the latter group having been doing a great deal of evangelistic work in the adjoining counties of An Ju and Pak Chun. At Sun Tol in An Ju, a market town is our first group formed in this county. It is too soon to judge much as to what will be the character of this group.

In Cha San county at Paik Tun, a large and influential group with a church building and two good men as leaders has been formed and from them the good news is being carried into Eun San, Soon Chun and Maing San counties. On my last trip I visited this outlying region, sowing seed and directing the efforts of our men.

Half way between Pyeng Yang and Cha San is a small group at Sa Hoi Kol - gathered and taught by a traveling woman peddler from the Pyeng Yang church. Soon after this woman had gathered and taught these people and they began to observe the Sabbath and destroy their evil spirits, the people of the neighborhood broke up the meeting, beat and bound this woman, dragged others out by the hair and threatened all. The result is we have a determined, faithful little band - the people have been won to friendship by a visit from our Pyeng Yang Helpers and I enrolled 11 catechumens last month.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

We believe the following features of the educational work as reported this year should be noted, approved and rejoiced in:

Mrs. Irvin's Night School for Girls in Fusan. The Training Class for Women held in Pyeng Yang and proposed for the coming year in Seoul. Mr. Swallen's introduction of quiet study in the Gensan School. The establishment of special Bible classes in Seoul and Pyeng Yang. The successful effort made in the Girls' School, Seoul, towards an advance in self-support. The number of girls in this school from the country churches.

We cordially endorse the general policy and methods of this school, rejoice in its general good condition, endorse most fully the request for an assistant missionary teacher and approve the plan for alteration of buildings with a view to larger and more healthful accommodations for the girls.

We note the self-supporting schools in Haeju, Sorai and the Chung Dong Church, mentioned in Dr. Underwood's report.

We call attention to the establishment of a library in connection with the Sorai School and recommend that the Mission express its gratitude through Mr. Kennure to the *Society for the Diffusion of Christian Knowledge* (Shanghai) for the gift of the same.

We endorse the plan for the union of the school work of the Kon Tong Kol and Hong Moun Syek Kol churches.

We call the attention of the Mission to the plans of the Pyeng Yang Station looking towards the establishment of an Academy, noting that the approval of this plan bears upon the policy of the Mission along the lines of schools for Higher Learning.

We recommend the approval of the plan of the Pyeng Yang Station.

We recommend the approval of Dr. Avison's plan for medical scholarships provided that no mission funds shall be used in the same.

Supplementary Report

We recommend that the policy of the Girls School for the coming year shall be to dismiss as far as possible from its care all girls under 12 years of age (foreign count) and that no new pupils be received.

Personal Report of M. Alice Fish for the Year 1897-98

During the past nearly eleven months spent in Korea, together with the beginning made in the study of the language, has come something also of the not less important study of the people and of conditions. In the first few months at Yŭn Mot Kol [mission-owned property near the East Gate of Seoul], attendance at the Korean services and visits with some of the women of the neighborhood were of help on both these points.

A part of January spent in assisting at the Hospital in the absence of Dr. Avison, gave the first insight into medical work among this people. There were also a few opportunities of entering homes in Yŭn Mot Kol and in Sung Pu Chai in cases of sickness among the women and children. One of these cases, an old woman who seemed about to die when we sent her to the Hospital, grew better physically but for some time refused to listen to the Gospel. A few weeks later when at the Hospital we went each morning to the women's wards for songs and prayer, this woman was much changed. I could not tell how much she had understood of what she heard, but her brightened face and eager asking for another song were cheering for the entire day.

Three weeks in April and early May was spent among the Christians at Chantari where the women and children gathered each night for prayer meeting, or formed a little company to go with me across the fields for a meeting in a neighboring village.

During the summer in Pyeng Yang, attendance at the services, the women's Bible classes, and the little girls' school, and meeting the Koreans in the Dispensary, while being of some service to them, were all most helpful to me. The number of calls to the homes of the people showed the opportunity for such work is so great that much time might be spent in that alone. The earnest pleas of women from the country for some one to come and teach them the Bible, made one long for the time when such requests need not all be refused.

One of the greatest joys in the medical work has been that of seeing a blind man and a woman who were led in, one twenty "li" [approx. 6.6 miles] and the other a hundred "li" [approx. 33.3 miles], go out able to see their way.

Four most pleasant homes have been given me these months; - with Dr. [Georgiana E.] Whiting, Miss [Susan] Doty, Mr. and Mrs. Baird, and Miss [Esther] Shields, and I might also say a fifth, for the care I received while sick at Dr. Avison's will always make that seem one of my homes.

I do appreciate what it has meant to have the year free for study and to have so much help in the language from older missionaries.

The joy of being in Korea has increased with every day of these months, and I look forward with pleasure to the new year as a time when I may get closer into the lives and hearts of some of the women of Korea.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Alice Fish

Pyeng Yang, Korea

Nov. 28, 1898

Graham Lee

Dear Father & Mother,

We returned from Shanghai in safety after a very pleasant trip. Just after we left Shanghai and before we got out of the Yang Tsi river we found a ship stuck in the mud. Our captain tried to pull her off and failed but in the operation his own ship got into the mud and there we stayed for twenty-four hours. It was a good thing for me, as the day was fine and the sea air built me up wonderfully. We came by way of Chefoo and were there two days waiting for our steamer to Chemulpo [Inchon]. The sea was very smooth most of the way like a mill-pond so I, who generally have such a wretched time, enjoyed it greatly. Mylo and Raymond didn't seem to get much benefit out of the trip. In fact, both ran down but now both are picking up again and Mylo is getting as fat as a little pig. On the way to Chefoo our ship ran in to Wei Hai Wei to deliver some stores to the English fleet. There were about a dozen ships in all and they looked rather formidable. A day or two before they had all been cleared for action on account, I suppose, of that Fashoda business.

I'm glad England stood firm and made France clear out for I don't believe France is very much better than Spain in her government of colonial possessions. This Dryfus business shows that there is dreadful corruption in the French army and if France don't [doesn't] have a care she will go to pieces as a republic.

We have a new boarder at our house, Miss Alice Fish, an exceedingly nice young lady, and a physician, by the way. She has been in Korea about a year now and was appointed to Pyeng Yang at our Annual Meeting in October. We have another boarder in Mr. Moffett and the latest news is that these two boarders have gone and gotten themselves engaged, which is just the finest thing that could have happened - so think we all of the P.Y. station. If they can be married in Pyeng Yang we are to give the wedding and I am to marry them. I have married several couples in Korean but never one in English, so this will be an experience for me and one I look forward to with great pleasure as Mr. Moffett is about the best friend I have.

Dec. 20, 1898

I had to go off to the country, and in the rush of getting ready I forgot to finish this letter and send it. I took only a short trip and am now back again for Xmas. When I got back found a letter from you, Mother, which we enjoyed very much and also Father, your last letter was a great pleasure to us. It does us so much good to hear from both of you. I have written Bess and Mr. Howard. The pictures came all right and are such good ones. I was impressed with one thing about Mr. Howard's picture and that was the set of that square chin. If Bess is wise she will watch that chin and never set up her will against the will that runs it for that kind of mouth and chin don't give up when they come shut with a purpose. I like Mr. Howard's face very much. It is strong and good and the chin part I like especially. But Bess must never forget he is the head of the house.

11/28/98 & 12/20/98 – p.2 G.L.

Here it is nearly Christmas and I ought to have sent this letter long ago so you could have had it for a Xmas letter. On Saturday we are all going to get together and have a Xmas dinner and a good time. Part of the program is to be a Xmas pie for the children in which will be their little presents. I don't like to have a Xmas tree for I'm afraid the Koreans would not understand it. I'm glad Uncle Graham begins to think that perhaps I didn't make a fool of myself after [all]. I must write to him.

With lots of love to all,

Your affectionate son,

Graham Lee

Seoul, Korea

November 19, 1898

O.R. Avison

[This second half of Nov. 19 letter was written on November 29, '98]
[My dear Mr. Speer:]

We returned from Chemulpo a few days ago. I am glad to say Mrs. Avison seems to have got a start toward better health again and I hope for a good winter's work. Mr. Miller left yesterday for the country.

Seoul has just passed through a serious riot and the country is passing through a crisis which, although very disturbing in some respects, causes us to rejoice in that it indicates an awakening amongst the people. The result has been a victory for the people and a distinct advance has been made in the direction of constitutional government. The King has kept promising to carry out several reforms, but as he invariably broke his promises, a large gathering of people led by the "Independence Club", finally gathered and made six definite requests. These gatherings were very large and one of them was attended by the members of the government at the request of the King and in compliance with their report he afterward agreed to the "Six Articles", he having previously conceded the demand that one half of the Privy Council should consist of men elected by the Independence Club. On the morning of the day set for this election, 17 of the leaders of the Club were arrested and imprisoned, the president, however, escaping and finding refuge in a foreign house.

A large crowd of people gathered in front of the prison demanding either the release of the men or that they be all imprisoned, as they were all equally guilty if any crime had been committed. Failing along these lines they demanded a public trial for the prisoners & this being refused they also refused to go home & there they remained day and night for more than a week through cold and rain. In the meantime the prisoners were tried for treason on a forged document and all sentenced to banishment. However, one of them was Deacon Hong of Mr. Gifford's congregation and as he had been arrested on American property without the sanction of the American Minister, Dr. Allen demanded that he be released, which was done. He at once went over to Mr. Gifford's, attended prayer meeting, went home to see his family and then, returning to the prison, voluntarily gave himself up to the authorities, preferring to share the lot of his compatriots to being free on a technicality. The people did not disperse and within a few days all were set free; the King announcing that he was satisfied the document was fraudulent. The meeting however refused to disperse, demanding that the reforms promised be put into execution. Things grew worse until some court favorites succeeded in reorganizing an old guild known as "The Peddlers' Club" and within a few days enrolled as members a couple of thousand of the most disreputable of the coolies in and out of the city who armed themselves with clubs and attacked the people, who, being unarmed were compelled to flee.

This was the signal for a general uprising. The people at once armed themselves with clubs & set out to meet the Peddlers and for about an hour a pitched battle of probably 1000 men on each side fought hand to hand until the Peddlers gave way and retreated outside the city, the retreat soon becoming an inglorious rout which did not stop till it reached the river, three miles beyond. The mob returning to the city, proceeded to demolish the houses of the leaders of the Peddlers. One of them adjoined the hospital so we felt ourselves in the midst of those interesting events.

So far as I know only one man was actually killed but the hospital was enriched by the incoming of several wounded men with broken bones & bruised flesh.

The King then promised again that if the people would disperse & go home he would redeem his former promises. For a time they refused but finally at the earnest solicitation of Yūn Chi Ho, the president of the Independence Club, whom the King sent for and again definitely assured upon his honor that he would do the things promised, they decided to go home for three days, to reassemble at 2 p.m. Saturday, November 26th.

Those were somewhat anxious days of waiting. The men who had assembled the Peddlers were still enjoying the protection of the King who was under promise to grant reforms, the Peddlers were assembled three miles from the city, with numbers of them still within the city, living at the expense, it was understood, of the government and steadily preparing a good supply of clubs, etc., and not a sign from the palace that indicated the King's intention to fulfil his promises. The English Minister cabled to Weihei weh for a gunboat which at once came & sent up a small guard of marines to Seoul, the American Minister directed all his people to fly their national flag over their houses and the Foreign Ministers, at least the American, British, and Japanese, spent much time urging the King to grant the demands of the people which they considered reasonable. The British Minister called in some single ladies living alone in the outskirts of the city and advised me to be prepared for an emergency, lest, in case refugees should run into our place, the mob might in their rage attack the place.

Saturday morning dawned fair and bright, the streets were lined with soldiers at all the main crossings while the palace was entirely surrounded by soldiers who were camped on the streets, and the whole place looked as if it were under siege. Still nothing had been done, but early in the morning notices were posted throughout the city that the King would that day come out of the palace and meet with the people to discuss their requests. This was almost incredible, nothing of the kind ever having previously occurred in the history of Korea, but active preparations for the erection of a large tent for His Majesty to sit in soon proved the truth of the posters. Directions were issued that at 3 o'clock the King would publicly receive a delegation of 200 from the people and afterward a similar delegation from the Peddlers. The affair was unique. All the Foreign Ministers excepting the Russian, were present, and many foreign laymen. I was very glad to witness this, which I think may be regarded as the first move toward the granting of representative government to the people of Korea. Evidently the intervening time had been spent in preparing an edict for the occasion. This was read to the delegation and then three selected men - Yūn Chi Ho, Ko Pyeng Sa, and Hōng Chong Woo - advanced to the foot of the throne and addressed the King. You will remember Mr. Yūn, the former refugee to America, a son of a high nobleman, now a prominent Christian, & successor to Dr. Jaisohn [Philip Jaisohn or Suh Jae-Pil] as Editor of *The Independent*. You may perhaps also remember Deacon Hōng of Mr. Gifford's church, whom I referred to before in this letter.

The third man, Mr. Ko, is a stranger to you. He was one of the first men upon whom I operated after my arrival in Korea. He is wealthy and was formerly connected with the Peddlers' party but, having been deputed by the King to disperse the people, was, after hearing their demands, converted to their side, and is now at their head. He had long been a court favorite. He lives next compound to us. He is not a Christian but it is noteworthy that two out of the three chief delegates were active Christians. Suffice it to say the King thus publicly promised to carry out all the reforms the people had demanded, and with hearty cheers for His Majesty, the thousands of people who had gathered dispersed, and the King then received a delegation from the Peddlers, ordering them to disband and go to their homes and take up their regular occupations and thus closed in peace the day that had promised only calamity.

December 16, 1898

I am sorry this letter is dragging on so slowly but you must try to excuse that part of it. I am glad to say the improvement in Mrs. Avison's health is continuing and I am also in better trim.

The past week has been marked by a reopening of the campaign of the people for reforms, the King having practically ignored his promises so publicly and solemnly made as described above. The Peddlers were not dispersed but on the other hand their leaders have been in constant communication with the palace and their sympathizers advanced to cabinet positions. To offset this, however, some sort of a representative body had been established which is composed in part of men selected from the People's meeting, leaders in the reform movement. I haven't yet learned its scope nor its exact composition, but I know that Deacon Hōng is one of its members. At the present moment things are quiet, at least on the surface. A letter, purporting to come from the Peddlers to the Methodist School reviling the students and all the Christians, caused a good deal of excitement, especially as it threatened the destruction of their schools and churches and a few hot-headed ones, taking their cue from the methods followed by the "Independence Club" gathered the Christians from all denominations together, harangued them into a state of fervidity and taking several Red Cross banners, marched them in a body to the police court to demand the immediate arrest and punishment of the men whose names were signed to the letter. The frightened Chief of Police promised to have the men arrested within 24 hours and they dispersed with the understanding that they would meet next day to watch the trial. Next day the Chief of Police had resigned & was nowhere to be found & the so-called Christians (many I know having no connection with the church whatever) went home to wait till there should be a Chief of Police. I may say that before the Christians met, letters from the Peddlers to Mr. Appenzeller denied any knowledge of the abusive letter, declaring it to be a forgery, and stating that they held the school & the Christians in the highest esteem - all of which, though probably far from the truth, must in the absence of proof of the writing of the letter, be accepted as true.

However, the former Chief of Police having been reappointed, the aforesaid hot-headed ones issued another call to the Christians to meet and day before yesterday quite a large gathering was held in one of the churches but as in the meantime the missionaries had had opportunity to discuss before their congregations some of the Scripture teachings on such subjects, there was a good deal of opposition at this meeting to going on any further with the matter so that no decision was arrived at and another meeting was called for yesterday afternoon, invitations being issued to all the congregations in Seoul. I determined to attend this meeting, although foreigners had not been invited, and sent a note to the other missionaries in town, nearly all being at present in the country. Mr. Gifford responded and we went together. It turned out that very few came, and these nearly all belonged to one congregation and were the followers of Deacon Hōng and two or three other active members of the Independence Club. After listening to their presentation of the case, Mr. Gifford and I laid before them the necessity of taking the Scripture as a guide, the more especially if they claimed to be asking as the Church of Christ. We allowed them free discussion, but subjected each man's statements to the one question - is that what is taught in the Scripture? - and little by little the tide turned until only two or three were left to uphold the attempt to force the hand of the authorities in the name of the Church and the gathering broke up without even voting on the question. This has been a critical time for the Church in Seoul, but I hope it has passed by and a lesson has been learned that will

enable the Christians to bear with quietness even more than the receipt of an abusive & threatening letter. I presume the excitement of the past few weeks, the dread of the Peddlers, and the willingness of certain ones to have the active support of such a strong & intelligent body as the Christian Church in pushing political reforms, all contributed to bring about the deplorable result.

Since Dr. Field & Miss Shields have been definitely appointed to the hospital work they have moved over here and are living in a combination of rooms partly in the women's department of the hospital, itself, partly in Miss Jacobsen's house, and partly in our house. It answers very well for a temporary arrangement but cannot be regarded as anything but temporary and they are anxious now to use the appropriation for building the Jacobsen Memorial house but we are confronted by a serious difficulty. There is only one suitable site in this vicinity - the one just across the wall from this house site and as a large new street has been run past it, and another foreigner has been trying to purchase it, the price has gone up so that while it could have been bought when my house was built, for \$1000 silver they now ask \$2700 for it. That of course includes a large mass of buildings on it, but they could not probably be used to the extent of saving more than \$500 or a little more for building a new house so that the site would still cost a great deal more than has been appropriated for the purpose, and we are at a loss to know what to do. We have some men quietly at work trying to find out the real state of the owner's mind but as he could have sold to one man for \$2200 it does not seem likely we can get it under that. The value of property in Seoul has gone up very much since the improvements in the streets & railroad building have been entered upon. Please let us know what we should do in reference to this matter of securing a site for the building now under consideration. It needs to be near the hospital and it needs to be on elevated ground and so we are limited in selection of site.

Re securing of a Union Hospital, see my report to Annual Meeting. Our Mission has appointed a committee to look into the matter.

I think I have already made this letter long enough and so must close. I am daily expecting the return from the country of an evangelist who is out visiting former patients and am anxious to hear his report.

Mrs. Avison sends her kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Speer and we also desire to send greetings to Mr. Grant. Kindly convey greetings also to Dr. Ellinwood & the other Secretaries and officers.

Yours very cordially and one in Christ's work,

O.R. Avison

My dear Dr. Ellinwood:

November has been a month of comings and goings in our station. Most of our number arrived on Nov. 5th, on their return from the Annual Meeting, others following shortly. We were all made glad when on the 15th Mr. Lee and family arrived from China. The return sea voyage did much to strengthen Mr. Lee, and he is already talking of a short country trip before Christmas. Mrs. Hunt has been gladly welcomed by us and is faithfully at work on the language. Mrs. Wells' class of young women, and the little girls' schools both inside the city and on missionary hill are in good working order. Mrs. Baird and Mrs. Lee have sent out letters of invitation to the women's training class to be opened on December 10th. asking the people to bear the expenses of those who come. The winter itineration was begun as soon as possible after returning. Mr. Baird was asked to go in place of Mr. Lee, on a very important trip down into a portion of Whang Hai Do. Mr. Hunt is in the western part of the same province. Miss Best is now at Chung Wha where she finds a large number of women ready to attend meetings. She expects soon to go further and spend some time with the Christian community at Muk Chun. Mr. Moffett and Mr. Whittemore have gone north and are holding a training class at Sun Chun, from there expecting to go on to Eui Ju. I have been given the visiting of the women's Sabbath Schools and meeting places within twenty "li" of the city, and am doing some house to house visiting. The last two Sabbath mornings I have found the meeting places filled and the women eager to learn.

North of here, at An Ju where Mr. Moffett and Mr. Whittemore have just visited, is a new group of ten who are under instruction - apparently the beginning of a good church. The Christian men of Suk Chun have of their own accord banded together and decided to take books and going two by two, visit all the unevangelized places in that circuit. Such work as this ought to be closely followed up by the missionaries, but it is so widespread as to be far beyond the possibility of doing so.

The Korean Christians seem to grasp with surprising readiness the teaching concerning the indwelling, guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit. God the Spirit is so evidently working within them that they know Him in their own experience. We praise our Lord continually for His ingathering of this people and for the inestimable privilege we have of being in this work. These women and the children about us make their way right into our hearts and take us directly into theirs. This is indeed a lovable people.

We look forward eagerly to having Mr. Swallen and family with us in the spring, especially for the sake of the needy Whang Hai district, for which work the necessity for the house asked for as temporary quarters grows more and more apparent. The eagerness of the people there in asking for some one to come and teach them amounts almost to a demand.

For the stability of the Church of the future, one cannot help desiring that

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the work of the coming year may be one of teaching and grounding rather than of wide ingathering into the Church. At the same time, knowing that the Christians will continue to preach, we pray that the ingathering into the fold of the Master may be greater than ever before, even according to the Shepherd's own yearning desire for these His lost ones.

Earnestly seeking all needed blessings upon the dear friends at the Board rooms whose thoughts and prayers are so often with us, I am, for the Station.

Yours very sincerely,

M. Alice Fish

Sun Chun, North Korea December. 1, 1898 (Rec'd Jan. 11, 1899) S. A. Moffett

My Dear Mr. Speer:

Your good long letter of Aug. 12th so full in its treatment of the questions upon which I desired to hear from you reached me in time to be of great assistance to us in our plans for the Annual Meeting. Since it was received, the final work of the year, the Annual Meeting with its volume of work, the return to Pyeng Yang and work there, plans for fall and winter campaign and the present trip with Mr. Whittemore - have followed in such rapid succession and have so completely occupied my time that notwithstanding my great desire to write you concerning the Annual Meeting and its decisions as they affect the work now before us, I have not been able to do so. There is much of which I wish to write to you and to Dr. Ellinwood and I shall take up the items one by one dealing with each one as fully as possible trusting that this month I shall be able to cover the ground.

The most pressing question with us is how to take advantage of our wonderful opportunities which are increasing faster and faster - leaving us almost in sheer despair of being able to so supervise and direct this work that it shall be solidly established - to reap the abundant harvests offered and to provide instruction for the hundreds, yea, thousands who are placing themselves under us for instruction. I have not a particle of doubt as to the genuineness of this work - that it is a work of the Spirit and that most of our leaders among the Koreans in the joy of their own conversion and in grateful service for the Master are doing a genuine work preaching and teaching the fundamental truth of the gospel - It has been my pleasure and privilege since my return to examine for baptism over 500 men and women, to baptize nearly 300 and to receive over 1000 Catechumens. These have been in all parts of our field among groups under the teaching of 30 or 40 Helpers and Leaders.

That we make some mistakes I know full well -, that some people deceive us I am equally sure -, that in some cases we have moved too fast I grant -, but that we are in theory and in practice conservative, that we are not and have not been eager for numbers, that we are seeking for and praying for every safeguard around the work I am perfectly confident - and if there is any way by which to judge of the genuineness of a work of grace in the hearts of a people we cannot resist the conviction that the Lord thro His own word and by His Spirit is mightily moving upon this people working faith in them, transforming their lives and characters and making them new creatures in Christ Jesus. I care not how skeptical one may be, he could not hear and see the testimonies I have seen and heard in these months in the various sections of our field - he could not experience this and believe otherwise than that this is genuine work. There will be those who will fall away, there may be a great many, but I have not the slightest doubt that hundreds and thousands of these people are safe in Christ Jesus and that no man shall be able to pluck them out of His hand.

The work however is simply too much for us - (I rejoice that it is His work and under His care) but we are doing all we can and are laying it, as it appeals to

us, before you that you and we may co-operate in the wisest and best way for its proper oversight and development. We have very fully talked over the situation, have prayed over it and then made our plans as we believe the Spirit of God has led us. The Mission very unanimously approved and sanctioned our every request and plan and now we hope to see the Board and the Church do the same. Our General report will place before you what these plans and requests are and I write now to call particular attention to the most important and those demanding most urgent attention.

1st - The request for a missionary from another station who having command of the language and experience can enter at once into the work in Whang Hai province where Mr. Lee cannot possibly do one third that should be done. That work is suffering from lack of attention and will cause us serious trouble and loss unless better cared for very speedily. The Mission has met our request by asking the Board to sanction the transfer of Ham Kyeng province with our work at Gensan [Wonsan] and Ham Heung to the Canadian Presbyterian Mission - which is able to care for the whole province as we cannot, and thus release Mr. Swallen for our work here. This has appealed to us all as a most desirable move both for the advantage of the work of our Mission and for the best use of the Canadian Mission in advancing the Lord's work in Korea. Feeling so strongly our immediate need for Mr. Swallen's presence here we as a station cannot urge too strongly upon the Board our desire that it speedily give its consent and let us know this decision as soon as possible.

2nd - Immediately connected with this is our request for 800 yen with which to provide quarters in Whang Hai province so that we may constantly have one or more of the station on that field in direct touch with the people and the Leaders during this important stage of the work.

Given them and the trial of our plan for its use for a year and with this we may be able to so provide for our Whang Hai work that we shall not need a separate station there. At present, we feel that a new station is and will be needed but we hope that a year of work with Mr. Swallen here, with Mr. Hunt's advance in the language and ability to take charge of work and with a house suitable for a two or three months occupation without serious injury to our health, may so enable us to handle the work that a new station will not then seem imperative.

I should like to make a special plea for this 800 yen (only \$400.00 gold) and that according to request of Mission it be appropriated at once (this year's work) so that there may be no delay in carrying out our plans. If our work here - the methods adopted which have met your cordial approval - our experience so far as it goes and the great blessing the Lord has given us - and our knowledge of the conditions and urgent needs of the situation give us any warrant at all for asking special consideration for any one thing, I plead most earnestly for this and for the similar request for the work in Mr. Whittemore's field in North Pyeng An province where I now am with him.

This plan has been in my mind for more than two years, has been considered in all its bearings so far as was possible, has been discussed with the station in the light of the somewhat similar beginnings of our work in Pyeng Yang and Eui Ju and I desire more than I can say that the Board should allow us to work it out as we had planned it, believing that it means the very greatest advantage to a work which is more than taxing our strength.

3rd - The request for 700 yen for temporary quarters for this northern work. The plan is the same as above except that it definitely looks forward to the opening of a new station here - it being our settled conviction that this region is too far from Pyeng Yang and too extensive to be properly worked from there. The point we should open is 120 miles from Pyeng Yang, a three days journey even on a bicycle (over the roads) and the field covered reaches to points more than 250 miles from Pyeng Yang. As to the development of work which has already taken place, it is enough to say that Mr. Whittemore already has more than one man can look after. I am here now - not because the work at Pyeng Yang is not urgent but because this trip was imperative and intended to have far reaching results upon the whole future development of the work in the north. We are holding a Training Class here with more than 40 men and 10 women enrolled - coming from 10 counties and representing about 20 groups of Christians not to mention individual inquirers from many other villages.

In the city the Church consists of 1 baptized man and 41 Catechumens, having two Church buildings, one for men and one for women. Attendance at the service last Sabbath was about 150 and at the Evangelistic services each night this week about 100. We are at work from morning till night - each half hour we can spare being given to examination of Candidates for baptism and for the Catechumens. We have accepted 15 for baptism and I have seldom heard clearer testimony or noted more evident signs of joy. These people have endured abuse and persecution, have contributed of their own means for church buildings and expenses, are strictly observing the Sabbath, have clear views of the atonement and give evidence of being new men and women. On Sabbath we shall probably baptize some 25 or more - receive a number of Catechumens and administer the Lord's Supper. When the Class adjourns next week it will be followed by the work of all these people in their own neighborhoods and the result will be hundreds of inquirers asking for instruction. From here we shall go to Eui Ju and service other places to examine for baptism, to teach and preach and then I must hurry back to Pyeng Yang to prepare for our Winter Theological Class next month. The Class this year promises to have an attendance of from 100 to 200 - 50 of whom will be the selected Helpers and Leaders of the whole station.

Mr. Whittemore will continue his work here but will not be able to visit all the places before he too must return to Pyeng Yang.

The opportunities on all sides are simply marvelous and I do not believe that there was ever offered to our Church a greater opportunity. I plead just as strongly as I know how for your fullest co-operation just now. We ask for another minister

and a medical missionary for this field. They should come at once.

Before they can acquire the language their hands will be full of work. The 700 yen we ask - is for such quarters as will enable Mr. Whittemore to stay here a few months at a time - without killing himself. He stayed 5 months last year and was sick all summer (necessitating a health trip at his own expense). There is more in the way of results in this field now than there was in all Korea 8 years ago and with such promise I do not see how our claim for immediate assistance can be laid aside. Mr. Whittemore and I are now living in a little Korean room 8x8, smoky, low, unhealthful, and doing a work which even in most favorable circumstances is a severe drain upon one's strength. The work is a most joyous one and an inestimable privilege and of course Mr. Whittemore will go ahead with it as long as strength lasts - but it ought not to be that we should be compelled to carry it on under such circumstances so liable to cut us off from it altogether - when the Lord's people are so abundantly able to provide otherwise. Mr. Whittemore has already a fair knowledge of the language, has won the hearts and the confidence of these Koreans, is conservative, has good judgment, is zealous and consecrated and is doing a valuable work. As a mere question of business policy let us have word early in March that the 700 yen has been granted - and our whole station will breathe more freely when we see Mr. W. start off for his country trips. I have written strong because I feel strongly and have deep conviction that our plans have been made under the guidance of the Spirit. Will you please lay this before Dr. Ellinwood to whom I hope to write very soon concerning other matters.

Our request for Mission approval to our plan for providing a small printing outfit was granted and I trust we shall have the sanction of the Board to the same. My former letter detailed our needs and plans.

I thank you for copies of your reports on Japan and Korea and look forward to receiving those on Persia and China. I was denied the privilege of meeting you here and in America, but I have appreciated your reports and your letter dealing with the subjects so prominently before us and now occupying our serious and prayerful attention.

Letters from you or articles which you would commend as bearing upon our problems will be most welcome. I had long ago learned to value very highly Dr. Ashmore's articles with their sound sense and evangelical views, and I thank you for calling my attention to another of them.

With kindest regards to yourself and all in the Board Rooms, but with special remembrance to Dr. Ellinwood whose counsel and whose personal interest in me has been so helpful.

Very Sincerely Yours in the Master's service,
Samuel A. Moffett

(Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions, Korea Correspondence, microfilm reel #179, Vol. 8, letter #85)

This is an article hand-written by Mr. Whittemore, entitled *Nam San Sa* - - not a letter]

Not far from Eui Ju, the old trading town on the Manchurian frontier is an old Buddhist temple, called Nam San Sa, said to be four hundred years old. The building which is large and imposing is situated up in the mountains, with a fine vista, opening out before it down the glen.

The owner of the temple becoming interested in Christianity and deciding that it was the true religion, offered the building to the believers in the vicinity and taking his deeds to the official, had the property legally transferred to the Christians.

The night Mr. Moffett and I went there, we were so delayed that we didn't start up through the mountains until nearly nine at night. By that time a piercing wind was blowing and the snow, which had been falling for several hours, made it difficult to follow the path. After an hour's hard tramp through the snow, we at last [saw] the bright light of the big kitchen fires flaring out through the storm offering us a welcome refuge and one that reminded us strongly of a Swiss hospice in the Alps.

The following day we were busily engaged examining the candidates for baptism and the catechuminate, a large number of whom had gathered in spite of the storm, one woman having come nearly twelve miles through the snow to receive baptism.

A fine high-ceilinged room, formerly the main room for the worship of Buddha, is now used as the Christians' place of worship. When the hour for service arrived, the believers gathered in this room, sitting Korean fashion against the wall, making a long line circling the room.

We first called the names of those to be received as catechumens, and as they arose and boldly responded as their names were called, the old room, formerly reechoing to the *Namu Ami Tabul* of the Buddhist priests, now resounded to the public confession of these new followers of the Nazarene. The three young men to be baptized then came forward and knelt in the center of the room while in the room adjoining was the young woman who had persevered so far through the storm.

I will not soon forget the scene as the three Kims knelt to receive baptism in that dimly lighted room, surrounded by the circle of intensely interested believers, and along-side of what was formerly an altar to a heathen deity. The recollection of that hour, wild with the storm without, but all quiet within, except for the voice of the missionary and the hearty singing of the believers, is one that I will always cherish with pleasure as a token of the good times that are coming for Korea, when the Buddhists will leave their idols and the worshippers of spirits will forsake their spirit houses.

N.B. In evidence of the decline of Buddhism in northern Korea, I might add that my language teacher is a converted Buddhist priest and that on the above trip in the north we received two other former priests. Besides these there are several in other parts of our field. In Whang Ju county all the priests at another temple have become Christians and at Soon An - Cha Chak the Christian congregation recently bought a deserted Buddhist temple and used the material to build a church.